

Disability Now

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Polish villagers called Gosha Cizewska, 5, "Devil's child" because of her facial birthmark. Now she travels to Scotland for treatment. £6,000 is still needed. Please send donations to Gosha Appeal, PO Box 7, Cupar, Fife KY15 4PF. SUNDAY MAIL

Win a wheelchair!
£1,000 worth of wheelchairs must be won in the Remploy/DN competition. See page 27.

Rents up 50% in three years

More than 120,000 disabled people in England and Wales face rent rises of 50 per cent over the next three years, the National Federation of Housing Associations (NFHA) warned last month.

The Housing Corporation, the Government agency which funds housing associations (HAs), is planning to cut HA grants from 72 per cent to 55 per cent by 1995/96.

The NFHA says this could mean average rents rising from £48 to £84 for disabled people living in new housing association homes. The figures come from an independent economic forecast carried out by UBS Philips and Drew.

NFHA director Jim Coulter told MPs of the All Party Homelessness and Housing Group in March that: "Cuts of this magnitude would increase welfare dependency among low income groups, such as disabled people, forcing many to choose between a job and a decent home."

"There is a danger that the private sector will be reluctant to lend funds to meet the shortfall, given the percentage

Continued on page 3

Disabled pupils' tests condemned

National testing of children with special needs reinforces their feelings of failure because tests are too difficult and not geared to their abilities, say teachers, unions, charities and education experts.

Nearly one third of special school heads think Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) for seven-year-olds are "totally irrelevant" to their pupils.

A new, independent report for the Government found that "In some cases, the child was so profoundly disabled as to be unable to respond in any way to the tests."

The report said special needs teachers should have more time to discuss with colleagues ways of adapting national curriculum targets and SATs.

It noted that teachers' difficulties were compounded by inadequate training - 22 per cent of teachers of statemented children were dissatisfied with their training and 15 per cent received no training at all. Most mainstream teachers of statemented children had received no specialist support.

John Fogel, spokesman for the National Association for Special Educational Needs, a charity campaigning for special needs education, said the report showed changes were needed urgently. "Many teachers like myself are unhappy with the tests because they don't recognise the strengths of special needs children. They just reinforce their feeling of failure."

"The Education Reform Act enables heads to exempt children from all or part of the national curriculum and the tests, but few would consider this because they feel all pupils have a right to be part of the educational system."

John Wright of the Independent Panel of Special Educational Advisers (IPSEA) said: "Something needs to be done. The SATs are crude instru-

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WACH out for VAT

A coalition of charities is calling on the Government to help disabled and elderly people on low incomes who will be hit by the Chancellor's decision to impose VAT on fuel and power.

Winter Action on Cold Homes (WACH), whose members include Disability Alliance, the Disabled Living Foundation, Help the Aged and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR), has warned that householders living in hard-to-heat properties, who are already struggling to meet their fuel bills, will be worst affected by the eight per cent VAT on heat and light bills in April 1994 and 17.5 per cent in 1995.

Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley has promised extra benefits for people on income

support and other income-related benefits, and will make an announcement in November.

But WACH fears the extra help will not be enough.

WACH secretary Gill Owen said: "The Government is being very vague about how it will provide extra cash and who will receive it."

"We want the Government to target hard-to-heat properties and give a cash benefit or discount on fuel bills until the property is improved and made more energy efficient."

Marilyn Howard, RADAR's social security policy officer, sees the VAT increase as a tax on disability. "A Government-commissioned survey found that the most common item of additional expenditure for dis-

Continued on page 7

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GPs ignorant of cp

Many GPs and professionals do not see many people with cerebral palsy (cp) so they have an "insensitive and dismissive" attitude to them.

This was a key finding of a unique Spastics Society report, *Ageing with Cerebral Palsy*, by researchers Lesley Willner and Don Dunning.

They interviewed 65 adults with cp and found that many had given up on treatment because they believed they could not be helped.

The report aims to increase understanding of the effects of ageing on people with cp and to identify ways of alleviating problems that occur.

It argues that professionals, parents and people with cp

need more information.

Advice and family therapy should be available when needed, and people with cp should have free counselling and psychotherapy throughout their lives.

Physical problems, such as stiffness, arthritis and incontinence, appear to increase with age, says the report. But some people find age has its compensations: they feel better about themselves and their lives than they did when they were younger.

Ageing with Cerebral Palsy, summary free, full report £6, from The Spastics Society Quality Assurance Secretariat, tel: 071-387 9571.

Income Support claimants double

The number of people living on Income Support (IS) has more than doubled since the Conservatives came to power in 1979, the Commons was told last month.

In answer to a question by Shadow Social Security Secretary Donald Dewar, the Department of Social Security said 5.7 million people will claim IS in 1993-4. These

claims will cover a further 4.6 million dependants, making a total of 10.3 million people. In 1979, the number living on supplementary benefit (which IS replaced) was 4.4 million.

* In March, rising unemployment figures produced another rise in the Social Fund budget for 1993-4, from £302 million to £346 million.

Tests slammed

Continued from page 1

ments for assessing children and are too difficult for many special needs children. It is wrong that all children, no matter what their ability, should be given the same tests."

Henry Ivan, education secretary of the National Association

of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, which launched a boycott of the tests in March, said: "We are unhappy that the tests marginalise special needs pupils and exclude them from the national curriculum. We feel the levels of attainment are not appropriate to their abilities. Unless SATs become less rigid

Arts Council puts money where its mouth is



Strathcona Theatre Company members meet Lord Rix, chairman of the Employment Initiative. "A lot of our work could have been set aside if anti-discrimination legislation had been in operation," he said.

Determined to raise the number of disabled people (about 200) employed in the arts, the Arts Council has proposed measures to the Government's Employment, disability and National Heritage departments, to arts employers, and to itself.

It is already acting upon most of the proposals to itself, including meeting the three per cent employment quota and monitoring other arts employers.

At the launch of the Initiative in March, secretary-general Anthony Everitt said: "It is clear from the report that lack of access to education and training is a major barrier. This can only be tackled through Government action."

But the Council is setting an example with a ten-place apprenticeship scheme, worth £100,000 this year, to give on-the-job training to disabled people in major arts organisations. The Royal Shakespeare Company may follow suit.

Funding for the arts from the National Lottery will be tied to plans for accessible buildings, Mr Everitt said.

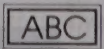
Of two Government responses so far, Employment was more positive than disability.

For free report, tel: 071-973 6511.

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Women pensioners win

Three thousand women pensioners caring for severely disabled people should now be able to claim Severe Disablement Allowance or Invalid Care Allowance.

The European Court of Justice ruled in March that the 1975 Social Security Act which prevents them from claiming benefits for the first time after reaching the age of 60, while men can claim up to 65, is discriminatory and unlawful.

Evelyn Thomas, Francis Cooze, Joyce Beard, Sarah Murphy and Eleanor Morley are celebrating - they bought the test case with the backing of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Scots Peto

Scottish Secretary Ian Lang opened a purpose-built centre for children with motor impairments, such as cerebral palsy, in Cumbernauld, Scotland in March.

The £1.8 million centre, inspired by Hungary's Peto Institute and directed by Dr Lillemor Jernqvist, will work closely with parents, offering education and development programmes for Scottish children under seven. Places will be funded by local authorities. Training and research will go on too.

The Government paid for the building. The centre will be run as an educational charity, with the Scottish Office contributing 60 per cent of the running costs.

DN will be on Stand H41 at Northern Naidex, G-Mex Centre, Manchester, 25-27 May. Do join us!

Rents up 50%

Continued from page 1

of tenants on benefits and the pending government review of all benefits. In some parts of the country, housing associations' capacity to develop new homes may run out."

Disability groups are backing the NFHA's campaign.

Bert Massie, director of the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR), said: "We are very concerned at the rising rent level of accessible housing and concerned that allocation of space and quality standards will drop. Disabled people are likely to become increasingly excluded from housing association properties."

Age Concern director Sally Greengross said: "For many older people in poor housing, associations represent their best chance of a move, so a big increase in rents will affect them badly."

A spokesperson for the Department of the Environment said: "The planned cuts in grants will not have a significant impact on rents."



Two lords a-greeting. Lord Snowdon with his 1993 special award winner, Jack Ashley, who "has done more than anyone I know to break down the barriers against disabled people."

VAT men do it again

More products designed for disabled people have had their VAT exemption removed by Customs and Excise: the Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulator (TENS) and the Enuresis Alarm for bed-wetting.

A Customs and Excise Board spokesperson explained: "These products are not exclusively designed for disabled people."

This decision follows another, by Nottingham Customs and Excise, to charge VAT on CCTV print magnifiers (DN, April).

Managing director Roy Sherlock of Neen Pain Management Systems, which makes TENS, said: "This ruling is grossly unfair and morally indefensible. Our products are bought by or for legitimate, medically-

assessed, chronic pain patients. It is ridiculous to suggest that anyone else would want to use them."

Philip Eastwood, director of Eastwood and Co, which make TENS and bed-wetting alarms, said: "At least 95 per cent of our machines are used by people with chronic pain."

Both have complained to the Government and are urging customers to contact their MPs.

Pamela Biella, from London, uses a TENS machine every day. "I was shocked to hear of this ruling. It is not enough that chronic pain patients have to pay for their own medical pain relief equipment. Now we have to pay VAT as well."

Disabled people are being 'fobbed off'

Social services staff responsible for assessing disabled people's community care needs are secretly rationing services and failing to report needs they think are too expensive or difficult to provide, says a new report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

It coincides with a campaign by eight national disability charities to find test cases in which councils will be forced to provide services in line with assessed need.

The survey, by Kathryn Ellis of Birmingham University, looked at assessments of disabled people in a metropolitan borough and a shire county. She also talked to 50 disabled people in their own homes.

She says lack of money is now affecting assessment standards. "Needs which cannot be met within the limited level of resources are being ignored."

"There is a tendency to deny disabled people real choice by trying to fob them off with the cheapest and easiest options available."

The survey found that: * home care managers and other staff did not suggest services which they did not expect

to be provided

* the greater the financial constraints, the more likely staff were to try to catch out cases they considered undeserving

* they were strongly tempted to use ignorance of services as a way of limiting help

* disabled people who appeared knowledgeable were labelled "demanding"

* demands for help far exceeded what individual social services departments were able to deliver.

The charities involved in the campaign, including Age Concern, MENCAP, MIND and the Spastics Society, have sought legal advice. Barrister Alan Moses said social services departments must develop services that are needed, regardless of resources.

The Health Department's guidance, which warns social services departments to be cautious about assessing needs in case of legal action by users, is, he says, inadequate, misleading and wrong.

Squaring the Circle: User and Carer Participation in Needs Assessment, £6.50, tel: (0904) 629241.

Back-down on Residential Allowance

The Government has backed down on its plans to withdraw Residential Allowance (RA) from people who are absent from care and nursing homes for six or more days.

Alistair Burt, Parliamentary

Secretary for Social Security, said in April that RA of £45 a week (£50 in London) would be paid if someone goes into hospital for up to six weeks. For any other reason, RA will be paid for up to three weeks.

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Liberal Democrat Florrie Tunally out campaigning for the 6 May local election in Western Park, Leicestershire. Back in Westminster, MPs say many disabled people will be unable to vote in the elections and others will risk injury if they try. A Commons motion signed by 43 MPs, including Liberal Democrat Liz Lynne, Conservative Sir John Hannam and Labour's Alf Morris, says only 12 per cent of polling stations are accessible (*DN*, August 1992).

ROGER BLACKMORE

Talks condemned

Alison Rowat reports

Disability groups have condemned talks between the Government and the All-Party Disablement Group (APDG) over anti-discrimination legislation as the wrong way forward.

Stephen Bradshaw, chair of Voluntary Organisations for Anti-Discrimination Legislation (VOADL) - whose 30 members include RADAR and the Spastics Society - told *DN*: "It looks like delaying tactics. We know they do not want it to be debated in Parliament because the Government don't know which way it will go."

In a letter to the Prime Minister on 22 March, Mr Bradshaw said what disabled people wanted was a full debate on the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill, blocked by the Government on 26 February (*DN*, April). A phenomenal 293 MPs have now signed a motion in support of the Bill.

He wrote: "The wealth of evidence indicates more

strongly than ever that the only way forward is with comprehensive or over-arching legislation. The Government may wish to constructively amend the Bill and the place to do this is in standing committee.

"Your proposed consultation is not going to achieve what disabled people have clearly identified as the only real way forward in achieving full integration."

Tory MP Sir John Hannam, chair of the APDG, refuted suggestions that the talks were a Government ploy to bury the issue. "There is progress to be made. We're moving forward, not backward."

"Any steps which will lead toward persuading the Government to bring forward anti-discrimination legislation must be welcomed."

Sir John hopes the Government will be won round to the comprehensive anti-discrimination cause within the next two years. At the very least, it should be in the Tory party's manifesto for the next election.

In a further worrying devel-

opment, it has been revealed that at their first meeting on 25 March, the APDG and the Government agreed to keep the talks secret.

Stephen Bradshaw said: "We're not happy that disabled people are not being consulted on this issue. Disabled people have made it quite clear what they want and the Government is trying to find a way out."

Sir John promised that disability groups would be kept fully informed. "At the moment, there's nothing to be informed about."

A date for the next Government meeting is still to be set.

Lobby alert

The Spastics Society is urging people to join in a mass lobby of Parliament on 11 May to get a better educational deal for disabled pupils and their parents.

Tel: 071-636 5020, ext 231.

ILF trustees named

Two of the seven trustees of the new Independent Living Funds are disabled people. Disability groups had asked for a majority. The two are Dr Adrian Stokes, Motability governor and member of the Social Security Advisory Committee, and writer/broadcaster Anne Davies, a member of the management committee of the Centre for Accessible Environments. In the old ILF, three out of 12 trustees were disabled.

Taking it to the top

Labour MP Alf Morris has taken the *DN* story about the disabled woman who won £10,000 damages from her local council to the top.

Theresa Aspinall took Wigan Council to court under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 because she was unhappy with the adaptations to her home (*DN*, April).

Mr Morris asked the Department of Health how it was drawing the implications of the case to the attention of other councils.

Under Secretary of State Tim Yeo said he had read the story and a report from the Social Services Inspectorate "indicating that the difficulties have now been resolved. Local authorities are fully aware of their duties under the 1970 Act".

Legal fight continues

The Law Society, which represents 59,000 solicitors, is to challenge the legality of the Government's legal aid cuts in the High Court. (*DN*, March). A hearing is expected by the end of May.

Child Support Agency has troubled birth

The Government's drive to make absent parents pay maintenance will penalise parents of disabled children as they are more likely than others to be single parents, say campaigners.

The Child Support Act came into operation last month. If you are a single parent and get either Income Support (IS), Family Credit or Disability Working Allowance (or you are the partner of someone who gets one of these) you must make a claim for maintenance through the Child Support Agency.

Unless you convince the Agency that seeking maintenance will lead to "harm or undue distress", you have to co-operate. If you do not, your benefit may be cut.

Disabled parents on benefit will not be any better off financially, as any maintenance they get will be deducted from their IS.

Absent parents on sickness or disability benefit (including carers on Invalid Care Allowance) are exempt from paying maintenance.

The Agency will contact people already on benefit over the next three years to set the wheels in motion.

Disability groups including WinVisible (Women with Visible and Invisible Disabilities), People First, and Manchester Disability Forum, have joined the Campaign Against the Child Support Act.

According to WinVisible:

"Mothers of children with disabilities are often single because lack of financial and practical help causes a crisis and the man leaves."

Disabled men will be hit too, as money for maintenance could be deducted from their IS.

There are 1.3 million single parents in Britain. According to

the Government, the cost to the taxpayer of supporting them reached almost £5 billion last year. By making absent parents pay up, the Government hopes to save £600 million a year.

Child Support Agency general enquiry line: (0345) 133133. WinVisible: 071-837 7509.

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Life-saving liver graft

A nine-year-old boy with Crigler-Naijar Syndrome, a rare genetic condition that causes jaundice, has had a quarter of his liver replaced in a pioneering operation that doctors believe will save his life.

Andrew Foran, from Aldershot, has been jaundiced from birth because he cannot pro-

duce an enzyme to break down bile. As a result, bile has been deposited all over his body. Andrew has had to spend 15 hours a day on a sunbed so that the ultra-violet light can break down the bile in his skin.

In a nine-hour operation at King's College hospital, London, Andrew had a section of his liver replaced with a segment of donor liver capable of making the missing enzyme.

Andrew, who had 500 units of bile in his blood before the operation, now has only 75 and

no longer needs to use a sunbed.

Mr Dr Kai-Chah Tan, who performed the operation, said: "The operation has been a success. As this is a genetic condition we can expect him to be cured by gene therapy within the next ten years. The surgery should let him live a normal life until that happens."

He added that, in the future, the operation may also be used to treat haemophilia, when a donor liver segment would produce the missing blood-clotting

protein Factor VIII, and familial hypercholesterolaemia, a condition in which the liver cannot break down the fats in blood.

Sticky tape stops pain

A researcher at Bristol Royal Infirmary has found a new way to reduce pain from knee osteoarthritis, which affects over a million people in the UK.

Sticky tape, similar to sticking plaster, is attached to the kneecap to pull it back into position.

Janet Cushnaghan, from the Infirmary's rheumatology department, told a March meeting of the British Society of Rheumatology that she had successfully carried out trials on 14 patients with the condition. The trials had shown that the tape reduced pain by an average of more than 25 per cent.

The tape is five inches long and one inch wide and can be applied by the disabled person.

Ms Cushnaghan said she had first thought of using the technique after learning on a training course that sticky tape is used to treat people with sports injuries.

She said: "We tried attaching the tape to different parts of the kneecap, but discovered that eight out of 14 patients at the Infirmary got greater pain relief from the sticky tape when it pulled the knee cap towards the other leg.

"The reason that the procedure was effective is that osteoarthritis patients lose cartilage and the kneecap moves to the outside of the leg. The tape brought the kneecap back into position."

Cancer surgery made safer

A new imaging technique has been invented by British and American scientists that will make many cancer operations safer, faster and easier.

Neurography, which took three years to develop, provides surgeons with an exact description of nerves that were previously unlocatable.

Magnetism is used to make the body's hydrogen and oxygen atoms resonate. Nerves can be located because they resonate in a different way to the muscle, fat and blood vessels that surround them.

Professor John Griffiths of St George's hospital, London, who developed the technique with researchers from Washington University, said: "Surgeons spend a lot of time looking for nerves during an operation because they are difficult to find and easy to damage. Through neurography it will be possible for doctors to find nerves before starting surgery."

Professor Gordon McVie, scientific director of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "The benefits of neurography are tremendous. When a nerve runs by or through a cancer, it will be possible to locate it in advance and avoid injuring it through surgery, making operations safer and much faster."

The technique may in future also be used to diagnose multiple sclerosis and treat people who are paralysed as a result of unlocatable nerve compression.

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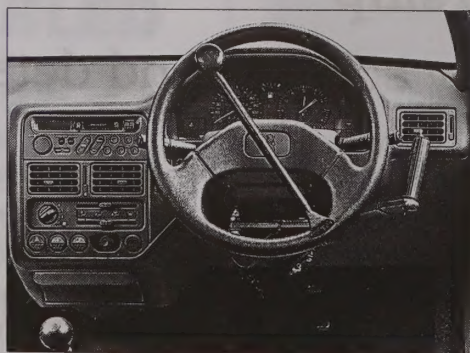
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Employers show willing

Over 40 firms and organisations are breaking new ground in meeting the needs of disabled people, says the Employers' Forum on Disability.

The Forum is a national employers' organisation with 85 members, including the Bank of England, Burger King and Boots, that aims to improve job prospects for people with disabilities.

In January last year it launched an Agenda, which spelt out what had to be done if equal opportunities policies were to actively include the UK's 2.4 million disabled people of working age.

A first-year survey of 42 Agenda supporters found that:

- * more than half of those surveyed are adapting buildings and introducing special technology, such as minicomms
- * one third are improving their services to disabled customers
- * one sixth give money and

support to disability organisations

- * a quarter are asking employees with disabilities for advice and feedback in developing disability initiatives

- * one sixth are using the Government-sponsored two-tick symbol, designed to alert disabled people to positive employers

- * most now offer work experience to disabled people.

Susan Scott-Parker, director of the Forum, said: "The survey shows that, despite the recession, many employers are using the agenda to re-affirm their commitment to disability as an economic and social issue."

The Employers' Agenda on Disability - The First Year, free from The Employers' Forum on Disability, c/o Midland Bank, 3 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6HA.



Happy tenth birthday for Meath, an I CAN (Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide) speech and language school. First head teacher Teresa Lea (left), is with former pupils Danika Westwood and Joanne Barrass, head Gillian Hart and chairman of governors Susan Blackwood.

Don't despair, your pharmacy is there

Need to know about guide dogs? Want to contact other parents of disabled children? Then ask a chemist.

Every pharmacy in England, Scotland and Wales has been given a directory of self-help groups to point people in the right direction.

Lady Sally Greengross, director of Age Concern, said: "The vast number of helping organisations is often daunting but will be less so from now on."

Produced by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (the pharmacists' professional body) and the National Pharmaceutical Association (representing 10,000 independent pharmacies), the guide is sponsored by Marion Merrell Dow Ltd.

Brain injury challenges

Brain injury specialists and carers from all over the world came to Oxford in March for the first conference of its kind mounted by the UK charity Headway and the USA National Head Injury Foundation, and sponsored by Brain Injury Services with Health Department support.

They heard the Princess Royal, brain-injured Jim Brady*, and Dr Jonathan Miller, but no Government minister.

An estimated 200,000 people with brain injury are admitted to UK hospitals each year.

It was agreed that services had improved with, for example, more emphasis on rehabilitation, more Government funding for UK therapists and a higher pub-

lic profile for brain injury.

But there were still some "appalling gaps", said Dr Freda Newcombe, director of Oxford's Russell-Cairns Head Injury Unit: lack of respite care, 80 per cent of patients having no contact with community resources a year after their accident, lack of training - and a need for funding. "Anyone who left this hall without that message wouldn't be one of us."

Others highlighted a shortage of multi-disciplinary teams, assessment centres and proof that rehab is cost effective.

"We know the services we want, we know the challenges we face," said Professor Anne Chamberlain of Leeds University.

*See profile, page 14



Freedom Centre friends of Angela Hart, winner of DN's 1991 Christmas card competition, who died before she could collect her award, have dedicated their new book to her. *Blue Town Remembered* has pictures and reminiscences. £3.95 from the Freedom Centre, St George's Avenue, Sheerness ME12 1QT.

WACH out for VAT

Continued from page 1

abled people was heating and hot water. This is because their mobility is restricted, they spend more time at home and have additional laundry costs."

Charities are also worried about VAT on heating in residential homes. Adrian Randall, chairman of the Charities Tax Reform Group, said: "This VAT imposition is wrong because it will penalise care providers for elderly and disabled people who need to be kept warm. Hardest hit will be small units which provide care in homely settings, as encouraged by the Government's own community care proposals."

He said that residential homes must also now pay the council tax. "These combined tax burdens are a body blow to those who care for our most vulnerable citizens - who cannot fight back. It is hitting the weak below the belt."

Liberal Democrat health and community care spokeswoman Liz Lynne MP sponsored a Commons motion in March expressing "grave concern" at the Chancellor's decision.



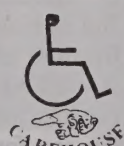
ALEXIS 1

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Liz Hollis reports on a trip even the climbers think is "flippin' crazy"

Four disabled men are set to tackle a marathon climb to the top of Britain's highest mountain.

The challenge will see the climbers donning specially-designed, protective clothing and dragging themselves on their backsides over the rough terrain and cold mountain gullies of Ben Nevis, in the gruelling four-day attempt to reach the 4406-ft summit.

"It is impossible to describe just how difficult it is. It is horrendous and really painful. I am not thinking about it beforehand because we are up against an unbelievable challenge," said leading climber Dave Podd. He should know. His attempt two years ago was hindered by inadequate preparation.

The motivation for the July event is two-fold. "It's a test of ourselves, of our stamina - a real challenge," says Dave. They also hope to raise more than £12,000 for a number of charities, including the Jubilee

Ben Nevis - backwards



Leading climber Dave Podd in training for his second attempt on Ben Nevis

LIZ HOLLIS

Sailing Trust.

A five-strong team is in training, but only the four fittest will be selected for the event. The

five are Dave Podd and Neil Howard from Norfolk, both of whom have spinal injuries, Graeme Stewart, a paraplegic

international wheelchair racer and cousins David and Eddie Donaldson from Scotland, who both have spina bifida.

Dave Podd, the only one to have climbed halfway up Ben Nevis before, is helping the others prepare themselves mentally.

"You get to the bottom of the mountain, look up and think - 'I must be flippin' crazy'. We will inevitably suffer some physical damage. The key is to go with the attitude that you are going to be at peak fitness on the day."

The climbers' fitness training programme involves upper body workouts with weights in the gym and climbing practice.

Mountain rescuers and a support team will accompany the climbers up Ben Nevis. Everyone will camp on the mountain-side and each climber will have an able-bodied "buddy" to carry equipment. The Royal Navy will airlift them off the summit.

Event co-ordinator Gerry Crowther said there were enormous practical difficulties to overcome. Last time the climbers wore out their trousers and were bitten by mosquitoes.

"We have made adaptations to our equipment, learned from previous mistakes and this time are on target for success."

To sponsor the team, contact Gerry Crowther, Centre 81, Tarworks Road, Yarmouth, Norfolk.

Questions asked at the NDIP conference

Ann Darnbrough reports

Does information enable? How do disabled people get hold of the stuff? How can we use it? Do we need specialised information? Who should provide it?

These were some of the questions discussed by 300 delegates, many with disabilities, from voluntary organisations, social and health services, at the National Disability Infor-

mation Project (NDIP) conference in Nottingham.

NDIP was set up by the Department of Health (DoH) in 1991 to look at ways of improving the supply of information to disabled people. The main aim was to encourage the formation of federations of local organisations working with statutory agencies to provide reliable information services. There are

local federations all over the country, but only 12 have been funded by the DoH and managed by NDIP.

NDIP has run for half of its scheduled three years. But, apart from a new publication*, there was scant information about the federations' progress or other aspects of the project.

MP Mark Fisher's opening speech got the conference off to a splendid start. He is seeking to introduce a Right to Know Bill, which would give Britain freedom of information legislation. This has special significance for disabled people striving for full citizenship in a society in which discrimination is rife.

The conference began on 1 April, the first day of the Government's community care

reforms. It was emphasised over the two days that information was vital for people to get full benefit from available services.

One of the most interesting strands of the conference was the debate between "professionals" and disabled people. The professional attitude seemed to be symbolised by the term "end user". Many disabled people challenged the language used by professionals, their attitudes and the way they obscure and withhold information.

One of the many excellent speakers, Frances Hasler, director of the Greater London Association of Disabled People, stressed the need for disabled people to be in control of their own affairs. "The information about how people with personal

assistance needs can function as full citizens can be summed up in the words 'independent living'. This concept did not exist until disabled people invented it. If the information we are given does not start from a disabled viewpoint, it is not the information we need."

Throughout, a free flow of information between delegates was encouraged. Perhaps the most valuable outcome was the meeting together of grassroots information activists, sharing and exchanging ideas.

* Disability Information Federations: Features and Issues. £5.95 from BEBC Distribution, PO Box 1496 Poole, Dorset BH12 3YD.

Ann Darnbrough is chair of the National Information Forum.

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IN BRIEF

Charities neglect needs

Disability charities are neglecting the needs of disabled employees, according to a survey by the Manufacturing Science Finance (MSF) union.

Only four out of 19 charities questioned by MSF's *Voluntary Sector Newsletter* in March said that job advertisements were worded to encourage disabled people to apply and just two provided regular training courses for disabled employees.

The survey also revealed a lack of disability awareness among some of the charities' personnel managers.

Voluntary Sector Newsletter, free, MSF, 64/66 Wandsworth Common, London, SW18 2SH.

AA travel guide offer

Mobility products specialists Gerald Simonds Healthcare (GSH) have 25 copies of the new *AA Guide for the Disabled Traveller* to give away to the first 25 *DN* readers who write in by 31 May.

The £3.95 guide, produced in association with GSH, gives information on accessible hotels and lists places of interest with facilities for disabled people.

Send your name and address to AA Guide/*Disability Now* Offer, GSH, 9 March Place, Gateway House, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 3UG.

Free legal interviews

More than 100 solicitors are offering free initial interviews to Spinal Injury Association (SIA) members who plan to claim compensation after injuring their spinal cord.

Anne Luttman Johnson of the SIA said: "We are very pleased that so many solicitors have agreed to give free interviews because legal aid cuts made last month mean that people on Invalidity Benefit will have to pay sharply increased contributions for legal advice."

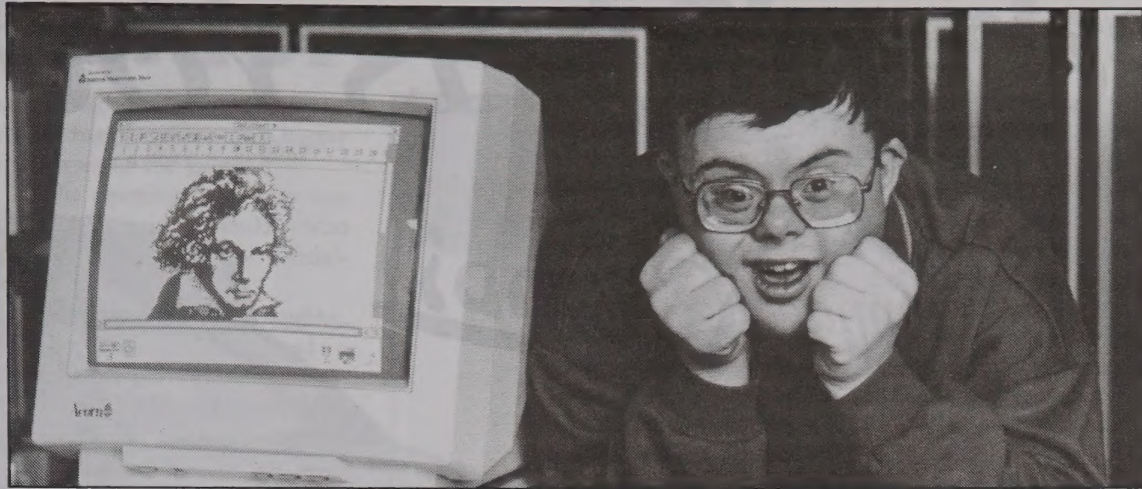
Anne Luttman Johnson, SIA, tel: 081-444 2121.

Woman of the year

Do you know an outstanding woman with a visual impairment who has achieved great things? If so, you could nominate her for the 1993 Woman of the Year Frink Award (named after sculptress Elizabeth Frink), which is given annually to honour women who are visually impaired.

The winner will be presented with £1,000 and a winged eagle statue at the Savoy Hotel, London, in October.

Closing date 31 May. Application forms from Kim Hemstead, tel: 071-262 0191.



JOHN ANGERSON

Special needs student Craig Lavelle gets to grips with the latest in information technology, at Park Lane College, Leeds.

Three Archimedes computers, worth £5,000, have been bought by the college with funding provided by the National Westminster bank.

The equipment will help students with learning difficulties learn a wide range of subjects, including elementary maths and history.

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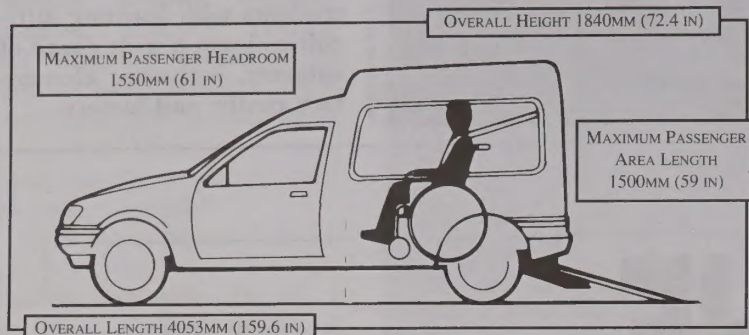
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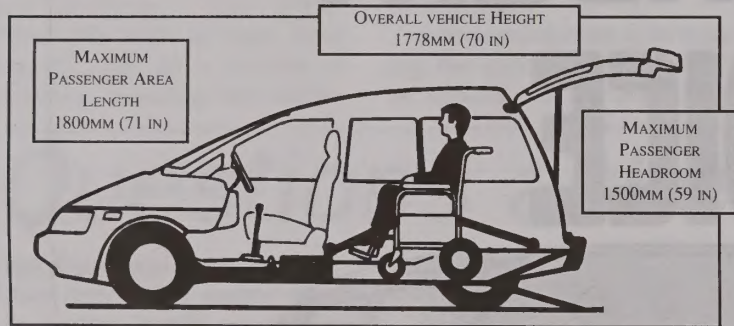
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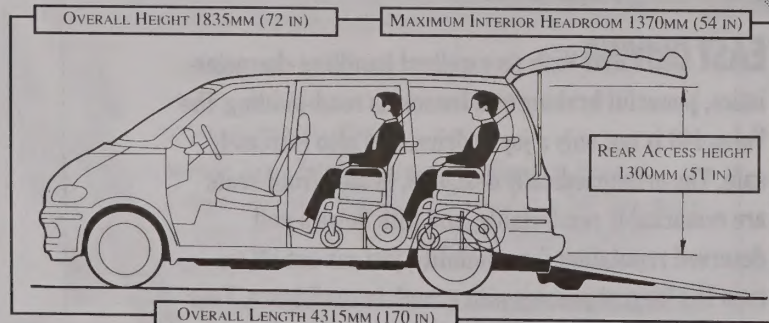


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Red-hot skiers set Olympics alight

More than 1,600 athletes with learning difficulties from 50 countries visited Austria in March to take part in the Special Olympics Fifth World Winter Games.

The 20-strong British team finished ninth in the medals table. They won four gold, seven silver and six bronze medals.

The most successful British skier was Mark Runham, who won gold in the slalom, silver in the giant slalom and bronze in the downhill race.

"I had a fantastic time," said Mark. "The races were great and I enjoyed every minute of the games."

Laura Young was also in unstoppable form. The Scottish skier won a gold in the slalom and a silver in the women's downhill event.

Three more Scots were among the medalists. Helena Bundy won the women's giant slalom, Gareth Furlong captured the men's giant slalom title and Michael Rae came second in the slalom and third in the men's downhill event.

Brenda Dalton claimed a silver medal in the women's

slalom race and returned home to Harrogate with many happy memories of the games.

"The opening ceremony was brilliant," said Brenda, who almost fell during her medal-winning run.

"There were people singing, skiing demonstrations and a firework display. It was fantastic to see the Olympic torch for the first time.

"We all seemed to get good times in our first runs but we were slower in the finals because they made the course harder. This helped us push ourselves to our limits but it made many of us fall.

"The timing and speed people skied downhill was unbelievable. Some did the course in 48 seconds which is mighty fast when you're going down a mountain around poles.

"I fell while training because of the big grooves in the course, but when you get down and see everybody cheering you on, you feel a lot better. I fell on my downhill and ended up fourth. For my slalom race, I just went for it and was lucky to get a medal.

"I'd certainly go again. It



Scottish skier Michael Rae won medals in both the men's downhill and slalom

FOLLY PICTURES

makes you feel great when you're standing on the podium, even if you only get a medal for competing."

British coach Barney Mackie said: "The games were a

tremendous success for all the skiers in the team.

"We came away with a good haul of medals and, more importantly, everyone really enjoyed themselves."

Sport is written by
Tim Russell,
tel: 071-636 5020

Brit scoops top table tennis title

World class players battled it out for top table tennis titles at an international championship in Coventry last month.

The sixth annual English Invitation Wheelchair Tennis Tournament attracted 70 competitors from 11 European countries.

England international Colin Woodford won the men's cate-

gory three paraplegic title, while Dimitri Ghion, from Belgium, won the category one tournament.

The German team had a great tournament, winning two top titles. Giesela Roosen became the new women's champion and Gerhard Scharf dominated the men's tetraplegic class competition.

Swedish pair Jorgen Johansson and Jan Gustavsson took the doubles title, beating James Rawson, from Nottingham, and Arnie Chan, from Leicester.

Chan, who won a bronze medal at last year's Paralympics said: "The standard was very high. I really enjoyed playing some of the world's best table tennis players."



Triple triumph: Brenda Dalton (left), Helena Bundy and Laura Young celebrate their medal-winning performances

Steelers at the double

Sheffield Steelers proved themselves to be Britain's best wheelchair basketball team when they won the league and cup double in March.

The Steelers first pipped the Milton Keynes Aces to the league title and then beat Oldham Owls in an exciting cup final.

Sheffield's league title win could not have been closer. The Steelers finished equal on points with the Aces but snatched the title on superior points difference.

It was the Steelers third successive championship and they

followed it up with an impressive performance in the cup final. The Sheffield team led from the start but had to withstand a great deal of Oldham pressure before finally winning 61-46.

Steelers' captain Colin Price was delighted with his team's achievements.

He said: "It feels fantastic to win the double after such a hard season. We had a real battle on our hands to win both events and are now looking forward to taking part in the Eurocup finals in Rotterdam, Holland, on May 2."

Newton hits Belgian bullseye

Karen Newton won the ladies' wheelchair gold medal at the European Commission Indoor Archery tournament, held at Malle, Belgium, in March.

Britain's top archer claimed the prestigious title with a score of 1,006. Val Williamson came third and the British

women's team were crowned European champions.

Ernie Arnold came second in the men's wheelchair event. He scored 1,046 and is now a favourite for the 1994 world championships in Greece. Richard Mathers won the men's cp competition.

New Insurance Scheme to Help you "Keep Mobile"

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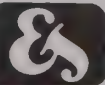
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Britain shamed by jobs survey

European disability organisations are calling on the British Government to do more to help disabled people find work following the publication of a new European Commission (EC) report.

Disabled Persons: Statistical Data, written by EC researcher Stephanos Grammenos and funded by the HELIOS programme, shows that British disabled people are less likely to have jobs than people with disabilities in Germany, France and Spain.

While only 13 per cent of German disabled people were unemployed in 1988, 16 per cent in France and 26 per cent in Spain, the rate reached 30 per cent in the UK in 1989.

The study, which is the first of its kind in Europe, also showed that the British quota system is less successful than similar schemes in Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

The German quota system provided 773,000 jobs for disabled workers in 1988, the Italian scheme 297,000 jobs and the Spanish system 224,000. In contrast, the UK's provided

only 100,000 jobs.

A spokesman for the European Community Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf (ECRS) said: "We are shocked and disturbed that disabled people in the UK are at such a disadvantage. The Government is not doing enough to improve the situation. Our quota system must be enforced, as it is in Germany, and anti-discriminatory legislation introduced."

A Department of Employment spokesperson said: "Of those countries with statistics available, Britain appears in the middle of the unemployment range. The 1990 Labour Force Survey lists the unemployment rate among people with health problems as 20 per cent, but Britain is not complacent and has a wide range of training programmes available for unemployed disabled people."

Disabled Persons: Statistical Data, is available from Commission of the European Communities, Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels, Belgium, price 17 ECU.

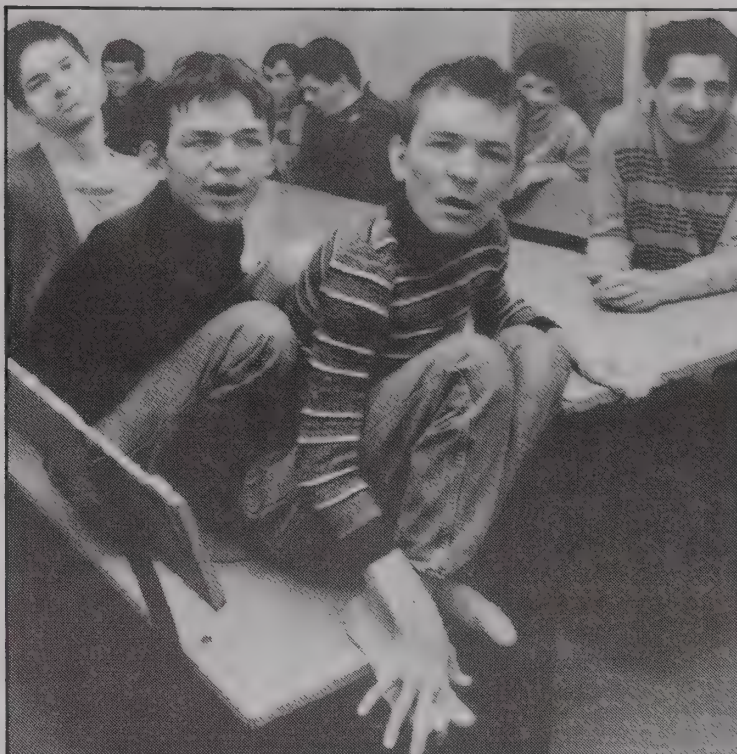
Danish tv leads the way

The Danish Deaf Association has won its five year fight for a daily television news programme in Danish Sign Language.

Four deaf people have been trained as presenters for the programme, which will be the first of its kind in Europe.

A Danish Deaf Association spokesman said: "We are delighted Danish tv has finally agreed to provide this vital service for deaf people."

"We now hope that other European tv stations will follow suit and provide a similar service as soon as possible."



Home is an over-crowded hospital for these boys with learning difficulties in the former Yugoslavia. The Stanic special hospital was built for 320. Now it houses 520 local boys and refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

ROBERT RAJTIĆ

Tape tax plans slammed

European disability and consumer groups have joined forces to oppose the European Commission's proposal to tax home taping.

The Home Taping Rights Campaign (HTRC), whose members include the European Community Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf, is demanding that European Governments throw out the tax on the grounds that it is unjust and unwarranted.

The tax would affect all blank audio and video tapes, and all recording equipment,

including video recorders.

An HTRC spokesperson said: "This tax would be a complete disaster for deaf people. Video is the best way to communicate in sign language and the tax will hit deaf people who use blank video tapes for video letters, course lecture notes and many other educational needs."

"The only ones who would benefit would be wealthy video tape manufacturers."

HTRC, 1 Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3NR.

Disability groups unite to campaign

More than 50 European disability groups are planning to form an independent, consultative organisation to help them campaign for the interests of disabled people.

It is hoped that Actions, Co-operation and Co-ordination in European Society (ACCES), will improve co-operation between them.

ACCES would help organisations decide on joint policies, lobby the European Commission and co-ordinate campaigns.

European disability organisations, including Mobility International, the International League of Societies for Persons with a Mental Handicap, and the European Alliance of Muscular Dystrophy Associations, discussed the structure of the new organisation in March.

Tony Lumley, director of Mobility International, said: "We have been holding informal meetings with other European groups for years now."

"ACCES would formalise this arrangement and help us build on the trust, goodwill and achievements we have developed with our European partners."

"There are still a lot of things to discuss, but we are confident of getting the new independent organisation up and running before the end of the year."

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"We don't want a hand out. We want a hand up."

It is not often that someone achieves their life-long career goal. But Jim Brady did. In 1981 he got "the best job in the free world", as the White House press secretary and assistant to the President of the United States, Ronald Reagan.

He had a staff of 60 and the ear of the President. "We had a 7.30 meeting every morning and we would sit there by the fireplace in the Oval Office, and I'd have tea and he'd have coffee, and we'd talk over the issues that I expected to have to face in the daily briefing to the press.

"Any time I spoke from the podium in a briefing room, that was the same as the President speaking, so you had to be very careful - you had to

be right on the button with what you said."

He was a man with plenty of experience of how Washington worked and who counted on the political scene. An Irish-American, he had arrived in the capital in 1973 as communications consultant to a congressman and moved up as "assistant" to various department heads before being press secretary to the ill-starred presidential candidate, Governor John Connally. He transferred to the Reagan-Bush bandwagon and was on the winning side in 1980. At 40, he was living his dreams.

As press secretary it was often "bob and weave time. You're up there like in a shooting gallery and they're shooting at you and you are

Sure, Jim'll fix it

Mary Wilkinson meets American hero James Brady, who survived a bullet in the brain and now lobbies on behalf of brain-injured people

bobbing and weaving."

On 30 March 1981 the shots were real. "That's the time I should have weaved and I bobbed."

He has tried to forget the details. But he tells of having his usual early morning game with his small son Scott before setting off for the office. A change of plan, decided by himself, meant that he, not his deputy, accompanied Reagan that day. The assassin fired the shots hoping it would get him a date with actress Jodie Foster.

Both men survived, just. Jim Brady counts himself lucky that he got the same free, first-class medical treatment as the president. Even so, he now spends much of his time in a wheelchair, paralysed down one side, with speech and memory impairment. He employs two nurses and a driver.

His deadpan sense of humour helped to see him through. "The thing I remember most was PT, pain and torture, the physical terrorists. I always say their textbook was written by the Marquis de Sade.

"The day I walked (nine months later) I asked them if they were rational enough to cut a deal with. I said if you leave me alone for ten minutes I will walk. I proved to them I could do it."

Although Reagan retained him as press secretary, Brady could not get back to work full-time.

When George Bush took over in 1988, Brady, with his wife Sarah, stepped up their lobbying for tighter restrictions on the sale of firearms in the United States through the Centre to Prevent Handgun Violence. "I felt I had to give something back."

The pro-gun lobby was powerful and well established, but Brady had fame, political

also of the US National Head Injury Foundation, for whom he travels and fundraises. Services are needed by another 500,000 brain-injured people each year.

Eric Savader, of the Foundation, claims Brady can pick up the phone and ask for x thousands of dollars and people find it hard to refuse. "Two years ago the Foundation had three staff. Then it moved to Washington and now there's a staff of 17, with 47 state associations."

"He's also done a tremendous amount by opening up his life as far as his head injury is concerned. There are well known Hollywood actors, actresses and singers who have sustained traumatic brain injury but won't admit it ..."

"... because of the stigma that goes with it," added Brady. "They think you're goofy."

A major problem is that brain injury cannot be registered as a condition and, without official recognition, there can be no public funding. The Traumatic Brain Injury Bill now before Congress (introduced into the Senate by Senator Edward Kennedy) would set this right.

Brady explained this to the first "International Brain Injury Forum - the quest for better outcomes" in Oxford at the end of March. He rallied UK support for a demo in Washington on 10 June on behalf of the Bill.

His speech to over 400 delegates from medicine, rehab and caring - and the Princess Royal - received a standing ovation. He read it from sheets of paper with enlarged print set on a coffee table near him.

As the speech went on, turning each page took more effort and the gaps in his delivery grew longer. Towards the end, someone came to turn the pages for him. It was a reminder of the everyday outcomes that even Bradys can't fix.

Of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Brady says: "People are already beginning to give a damn where they didn't before"

contacts, powers of persuasion and personal disability on his side. Brady's Bill, as it was called, requires law enforcement officers to check people before a handgun can be sold to them, as is the case in the UK. The bill made it through Congress in 1991, only to get the presidential veto. Bush wanted the controls as part of a larger crime package.

Re-introduced in February this year, the bill could be completed by the end of May. President Clinton has said that if it is passed, he will sign it.

Brady worked hard for the passage of the 1990 anti-discriminatory Americans with Disabilities Act and claims: "People are already beginning to give a damn."

He knows what access discrimination feels like, but in one restaurant they now put bricks under the table so his wheelchair can fit. He agrees changes need not be expensive. "They don't expect you to tear your building down, just make 'reasonable' accommodation."

He is vice-chair of the Washington-based National Organisation on Disability and

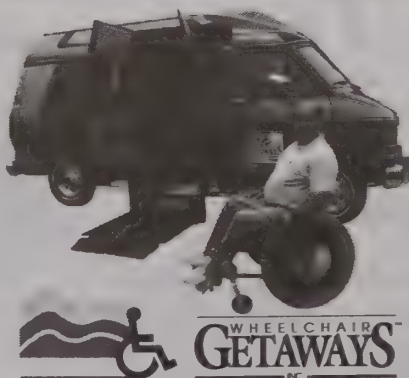
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Homing in on the housing laws

Toks Fajemirokun knows from personal and professional experience the problems of getting your own home. Here she cuts through the legal language to help you in the battle

There is no one, all-embracing statute covering the housing needs of disabled people. Disability crops up in a number of laws passed since 1970.

Local authority ignorance

Under section 8 of the Housing Act (1985) local authorities (LAs) must consider housing needs and conditions in their areas.

When doing this, they must, as section 3 (1) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (1970) puts it, "have regard to the special housing needs of chronically sick or disabled persons". In other words, disabled people have the right to have their needs considered when LAs are formulating housing policies.

The trouble is that LAs and disabled people may differ over what is "housing needs". For example, disabled people may think that housing advice given by a disability organisation in accessible premises is an essential housing need, whereas an LA may think that housing advice from a local advice centre is enough and withdraw funding from the disability organisation.

Also, the Act assumes LAs know the housing needs of disabled people in their areas.

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) found in 1992 that only 20 per cent of the 41 per cent of LA housing departments who responded to a survey knew the number of disabled people in their areas. Only 71 per cent had contact with local disability organisations about the design of adapted homes.

How, one wonders, can these authorities assess the housing needs of disabled people effectively?

Are you "homeless"?

Under Part III of the Housing Act (1985), definitions of homelessness include where an applicant has no home at all, or where the accommodation makes it impossible for them to live with another member of their family or anyone else, or where it is unreasonable for the person to continue living in the home. Priority must be given to someone who is vulnerable, because of mental illness, handicap or physical disability.

The LA must provide temporary accommodation to anyone who is homeless and who has a priority need.

So a disabled person who can show that he/she is homeless, because there is not enough space to accommodate a carer in the present home or because the home he/she is living in is inaccessible due to design defaults, is eligible for temporary accommodation.

But these provisions, particularly the one about a person being "homeless" where it is unreasonable for him to continue to occupy his home, is open to different interpretations and may not work for a disabled person.

But, given that most disabled people are poor (the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys report, 1988, found that 78 per cent of disabled adults live in households with no wage earner), it is a fairly empty option.



A home to be proud of: Yvonne Jones and her son Remi live in Habinteg's integrated Park Road Hull Scheme.

LESLEY HOWLING/HABINTEG

Another clause is needed saying that disabled people who want to leave residential institutions or who live in inaccessible homes (their parents' home or elsewhere) are homeless. This would give disabled people greater legal rights so that they would not have to rely on the idiosyncracies of an LA to provide more accessible homes.

The Housing Act also provides that a person who was accommodated temporarily by the LA has the right to permanent accommodation, if they did not become homeless intentionally and they have worked, lived or have family in the area.

And since the Code of Guidance to LAs says the home provided should be suitable for the needs of the applicant, it must be suitable for the needs of disabled people.

The right to buy

The Housing Act also gives disabled tenants of accessible or adapted LA properties the right to buy their homes. (The right does not extend to disabled tenants of charitable housing associations.)

occupiers can apply.

Before a disabled person can get the grant, the LA's social services department (usually occupational therapists) must decide if the adaptation is necessary and appropriate, and the housing department (usually architects or surveyors) must decide if the adaptation is reasonable and practicable.

The disabled person may have to contribute to the costs, so their income and the income of a joint tenant or joint owner-occupier living or intending to live in the property is taken into account. Savings below

'Some disabled people are being forced to live in unsuitable homes because of their finances. It is ... inconsistent with the Government's policy of promoting independent living in the community'

£5,000, mobility, attendance, housing and council tax benefits are disregarded.

Some adaptations or improvements have to be provided, such as ramps, new or improved central heating, an accessible bedroom or kitchen. Others, for "the accommodation, welfare or employment of the disabled person" are at the LA's discretion.

It is also up to the LA to decide which adaptations to provide, albeit in consultation with the disabled person.

Inevitably, this cumbersome dual assessment, made worse by the shortage of occupational therapists, causes delay and complaints. I have had clients who have had to wait up to two years for an adaptation, and



PATRICK BAGLEE

this was the finding in a survey of disabled facilities grant in London and Wycombe, Buckinghamshire in 1989.

Disabled people may not be able to afford to contribute to the adaptation cost. When RADAR surveyed 116 LAs in England and Wales in 1992, of the 53 per cent who replied, over half admitted that people withdrew their applications for the disabled facilities grant because they could not afford to pay.

This means that some disabled people are being forced to live in unsuitable homes because of their finances. It impedes them from leading an independent life and is inconsistent with the Government's policy of promoting independent living in the community.

The National Health Service and Community Care Act (1990) has just come into force (see *DN* April). As far as housing is concerned, it allows social services to consult with housing providers on behalf of the disabled person. If LAs fail to assess the needs of the disabled person, that person has the right to take legal action.

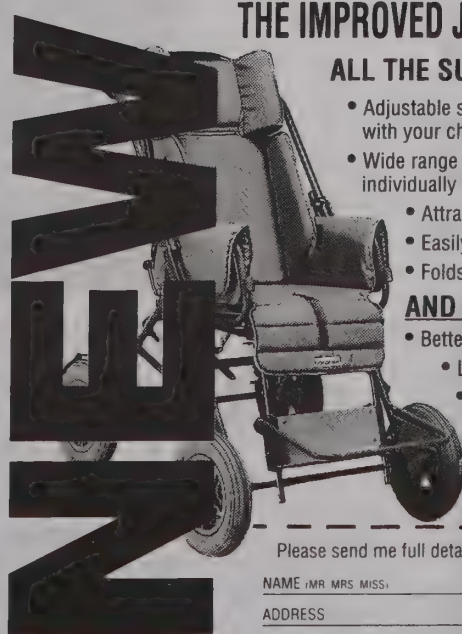
RADAR's Housing Fact Sheet, 95p (inc p&sp), 25 Mortimer Street, London WIN 8AB, tel: 071-637 5400.

Disabled People in Britain and Discrimination by Colin Barnes, British Council of Organisations of Disabled People, De Bradelei House, Chapel Street, Belper, Derbyshire DES6 1AR, tel: (0773) 828182.

Toks Fajemirokun is project officer for the National Wheelchair Housing Associations Group.

Home adaptation grant

Part VIII of the Local Government and Housing Act (1989) introduced the Disabled Facilities Grant for adapting and improving the homes of disabled people. LA and housing association tenants and owner-



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Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Doing their own VAT thing

The item about VAT suddenly being put on equipment for use by visually impaired people (*DN*, April) and local VAT offices deciding who qualifies for relief, doesn't surprise me.

In the 1986 Budget, there were changes in the regulations regarding VAT on sound recording equipment used by Talking Newspapers and also on the spare parts and servicing.

VAT offices interpreted the regulations in different ways. Some required companies servicing equipment to charge VAT on parts and labour, while others ruled that only the labour had to have VAT.

After a Talking Newspaper

queried this situation, I took the matter up with my local VAT enquiry office, enclosing copies of letters from various VAT offices which contradicted one another.

Although a definitive answer was obtained (VAT had to be charged on spares and labour), it didn't stop companies continuing as before, as they had to follow the rulings of their local VAT office.

The 1992 Budget proposed that "zero-rating will be allowed for the repair and maintenance of equipment used by 'the Talking Books for the Blind' service". Did this also include Talking Newspapers? Yes, said my local VAT office, so the rulings

obtained for the 1986 Budget changes were no longer relevant.

But it did not stop one VAT office in the South-East from telling a company that VAT still had to be applied to parts and labour.

I find it worrying that interpretation of the regulations is left to local VAT offices (even when rulings are obtained from VAT headquarters) and that changes can be made suddenly, more so when equipment has been available for many years.

Dave Buckley
technical advisor
Talking Newspaper Association
of the UK
Harrow, Middx

OFWAT - what service?

The OFWAT (Office of Water Services) advertisement (*DN*, March) should not be taken too seriously.

When I became a cripple, virtually overnight, I had to alter my house so that I could go on living in it. Planner, local council, builders, car

dealer, DSS, strangers, all gave help or discounts. It was left to the Colne Valley Water Company to use the new rateable value as a pretext to increase my water and sewage by 20 per cent.

My attempt to reason met a threat of legal action.

After I retired, I wrote to OFWAT, as an impending increase of water charges would, in my case, start from a level already raised by what I saw as a tax on my disability.

I hoped that the enlightened views of the gas, electricity and phone services in the treatment of disabled people might be copied by the water services.

OFWAT sent my letter to Colne Valley.

Their managing director tried to prove that I was wrong simply by writing that I was wrong, but eventually returned all the extra money I had paid.

In future, my water and sewage charges will be calculated on the pre-alteration's rateable value. However, they refused interest or any allowance for inflation.

OFWAT - apparently a rubber-stamp rather than a regulatory body - told me that I should regard the water company's cessation of its conduct as ex-gratia, and refused further correspondence.

Alan Wright
Harrow Weald, Middx

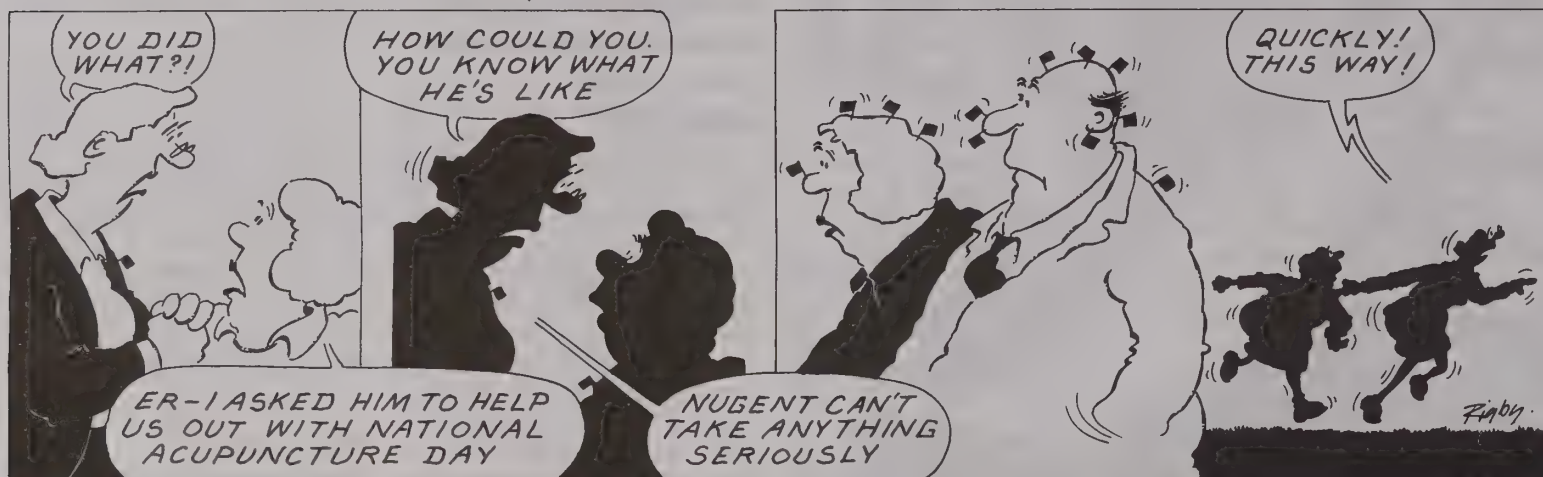
Sex advice in magazines

I was saddened to read the views of M Wickison (*DN*, March) about the articles on contraception and sexual aids. Personally, I found both articles interesting and informative.

I can pick up many women's magazines and read about sex but, if I need any further assistance, M Wickison expects me to go to my GP. I go to the doctor when I am ill. Requiring sexual advice because of disability should not be seen as an illness.

Why can't I get the information from a magazine, just like everyone else?
Mrs Rebecca Cassidy
Runcorn, Cheshire

The Doings of Dan Nugent ("DN" to his friends) by Rigby



sic

Sell, sell, sell

Unsuspecting punters were like lambs to the slaughter as parent Alex McLean set out to sell *DN* mugs at Scottish Naides (only £1.75 and they are rather good, even though we say so ourselves).

It's simply not true to say he took all your names and addresses and will be knocking on your door shortly selling tins of tartan paint and cartons of fresh air.

But, just in case, be careful.

No publicity please

Well done Disability Scotland for organising a conference in Glasgow on "Avoiding stereotypes: considering how people with disabilities are portrayed by the media."

Then another letter came: "We regret to inform you that due to lack of interest by press, tv and radio throughout Scotland, the conference has been cancelled."

Isn't that just (stereo)typical?

Sympathy card

Did you see *Citizen 2,000* on Channel 4, which follows children from birth to find out how their lives unfold?

Sunday Telegraph columnist A N Wilson was particularly moved by the programme featuring 10-year-old Rachael - "Wild, severely handicapped by cerebral palsy".

After sympathising with the family's efforts to adapt, he ponders: "One switches off the set wondering how on earth anyone can endure this - her parents, her sister, above all Rachael herself."

If you can help Mr Wilson with his wondering, the address is 1 Canada Sq, London E14.



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Disability Now goes North!

Alison Rowat reports

A West Yorkshire charity, which gives 100 hours of support and advice after a baby is diagnosed as disabled, celebrates its first birthday next month.

One Hundred Hours - thought to be the only scheme of its kind in Britain - works with families of "brain damaged" babies from Leeds, Bradford and Calderdale.

Four families are now being helped, two of which have already had their first 100 hours and are starting a second batch.

Peter Limbrick set up the scheme after 25 years teaching disabled children. He found the project's £20,000 first year costs from charitable trusts, local businesses and other fundraising.

One Hundred Hours acts like a best friend, visiting the family, talking to parents about what has happened, listening to their worries, trying to find answers to their questions, and generally offering support.

Mr Limbrick is the only "key worker" at the moment. Another, a health visitor by training, starts in June.

He also finds out what help the baby is getting from professionals such as physiotherapists and speech therapists. Together, he and the parents will work out a "programme" which gets the most out of the services available. If the professionals have asked the parents to do work with the baby at home, he will help with that too.

Parents react in different ways to the news that their child is disabled, he explained. "First of all there can be great sadness and grieving because the expected perfect baby has turned out like this. This might cause anger or depression.

"The parents will be confused because suddenly they find themselves in a whole new world of disability. And they don't just have to learn about one disability. They might have to learn about cerebral palsy, epilepsy, blindness, deafness, feeding problems, sleeping problems and difficult behaviour."

Not everyone who approaches the charity gets 100 hours of help. Some parents will sort things out themselves, others may need advice, and many just need someone to talk to in the first few weeks.

The Gough family from Brighouse in Halifax needed

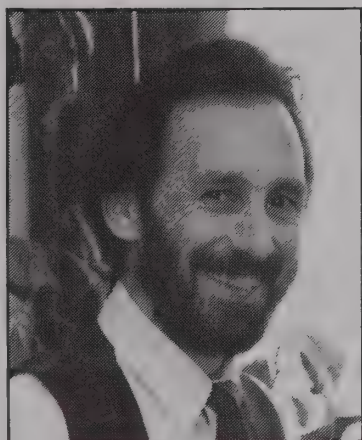


Working with 18-month-old Kristina Clifton and her family from Bradford

100 hours can make a lifetime's difference

help urgently. Katie was born on 20 August 1991 and diagnosed as severely disabled soon after.

"Things had been at crisis level for months," said her mother Amanda. "Katie had severe feeding difficulties and we weren't getting anywhere. Medically, she had a lot of problems.



Limbrick: a link between parents and professionals

"One Hundred Hours has provided invaluable support through suggesting contacts, just doing a lot of the thinking. It's very difficult to be rational when you're so distraught."

One Hundred Hours is also paying for a temporary nanny to come in five hours a day.

"We have not yet met a family in West Yorkshire which has been offered

professional counselling to help them cope with the first news of the baby's problem," said Mr Limbrick. "You can even be told that your unborn baby is badly damaged and then be sent home to cope with this news on your own.

"Sometimes physiotherapy is not available to you for the first six months of your baby's life, and then it might be offered for only once a month. Speech and language therapy are often even more scarce."

Carol Muff's daughter Rachel, now three, became brain damaged after a heart operation. "At the time I didn't know where to turn or what to do", she said.

The hospital wasn't offering much help and, in desperation, she turned to One Hundred Hours after a friend read about it in a local paper. "It was the only lifeline I had."

Rachel has speech therapy and physiotherapy at Bradford local Child Development Centre, but it's only once a week. Peter comes in one morning to work with Rachel and Carol, doing the exercises recommended by the professionals.

"The work he is doing with Rachel is superb," said Carol. "It's something that's done in your home. It's private. It's a bit daunting for a kid to go

into hospital. She is so relaxed with Peter now, and works well with him."

Peter Limbrick does not

To coincide with Northern Naidex in Manchester on 25-27 May, DN presents a four-page Northern special:
Page 17
100 hours
Pages 18-19
Independent living, putting on the style and integration in school
Page 20
Information

claim to be a therapist. He is a vital link between parents and professionals, getting the system to work for both sides. But in the end, he said: "We are on the side of the families. That's our first loyalty."

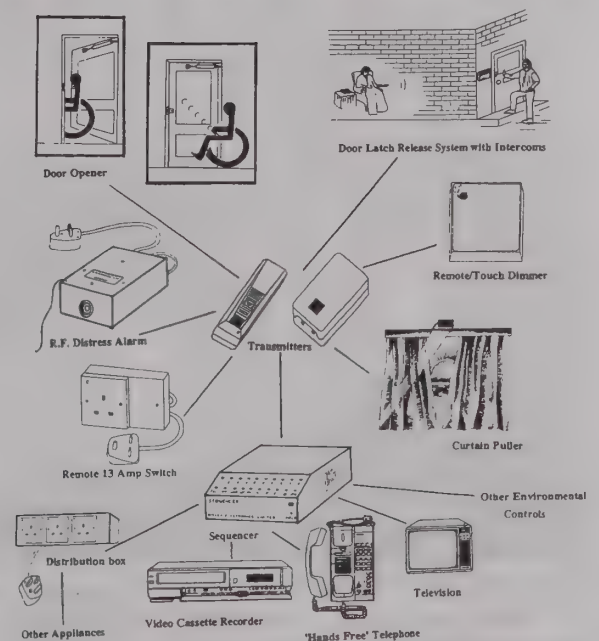
"Parents need someone they can talk to, perhaps over and over again, who they can trust and who will help them start to understand what it all might mean."

To make a donation or for more information, contact Peter Limbrick, One Hundred Hours, 160 Main Street, Addingham, West Yorkshire, LS29 0LY, tel: (0943) 830102.

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Last year Brian Haines moved into his own bungalow in Oldham

The idea of independent living frightened me in the beginning because I'd never been on my own before. It doesn't frighten me now. Since October last year I have lived in my own bungalow at Royle Court, Oldham.

I have been so busy since I moved in, I haven't fully

Home alone at 55

was 80, I decided that she had looked after me for long enough.

I moved to Lake View home for disabled people, where I learnt how to wash and dress myself and do all the other ordinary things that able-bodied people take for granted.

Oldham Metropolitan Borough then decided to go for

they want to do.

I was asked which bungalow I wanted and chose plot 16 from the plans.

From that moment I was involved in a series of meetings and picked the kitchen units, wall tiles in the bathroom and the kitchen and the floor covering. I told the builders where I wanted the

whenever I like and choose what I want to eat.

I go shopping with a member of staff every week. It still feels strange having to choose what I need for food, but this will become more natural as time goes on.

Never having done my own shopping before, I didn't realise how much things cost. My food was always on the table at home and at Lake View.

It's nice to get out and about and I particularly enjoy visiting New Dale House day centre, where I meet friends and write stories for the centre's paper.

There is no doubt that coming to Royle Court was the best move I ever made. It took me a little time to get used to being on my own, but the staff, who cook and clean for me, are very good and I now thoroughly enjoy living independently.

I believe this is the beginning of a new pattern of living for disabled people in Oldham and in years to come it will be the norm for disabled people when they reach a certain age to leave their family home and move into a place of their own.

Disabled people in Oldham have fought for the right to be independent.

The old way of putting people straight into residential care with no choice will be seen as the Dark Ages by future generations. The ultimate goal is to get every house accessible to disabled people, and it is only then that discrimination in housing will come to an end - when a disabled person can choose where he or she wants to live.



No place like home: "I've been so busy since I moved in, I haven't fully realised it's mine"

DEREK EASTWOOD, GREATER MANCHESTER PRESS AGENCY

realised it is mine.

It was exciting to see my furniture moved in one morning and by four o'clock it was as if I had always lived there.

I am 55 and my mother looked after me for many years. She took me all over the world, including Israel, Majorca and Italy. When she

care in the community. They closed Lake View and replaced it with 19 bungalows built by the North British Housing Association. The Royle Court project offers 24-hour care by a team of 19 workers and the chance to live independently. The residents pay their own rent and bills and have complete control over what

alarm cord and had a special type of toilet fitted which I control with my foot.

I am now in control of my own life. It is up to me what I do and where I go. Unlike in Lake View, I decide when I get up and I only have to pull a cord and a member of staff will come and make my breakfast.

I can have my meals

Integr



Chris (centre) with his school

Alison Rowat looks at a quiet success story in a small school in Cumbria

While politicians in London continue to debate the best ways of educating children with special needs, an integration success story is quietly taking place in the small village of Ravenstonedale in Cumbria.

Chris Raine, 10, has Down's Syndrome and goes to the mainstream Ravenstonedale Endowed School. One in ten

Meet th

Alison Rowat visits a Manchester centre where young people learn about style

Nineteen-year-old Mark Langwieser of Bolton is wearing something very special this month - his first pair of denims, which he made at the Style Centre in Manchester.

Like many disabled teenagers, Mr Langwieser is the victim of a fashion conspiracy. Inaccessible shops, clothes made to fit someone else's idea of the perfect body, gear your granny wouldn't wear - you name it, it's out there.

Now, with the help of the Style Centre, some teenagers are fighting back.

The Centre opened in 1990. Its roots are in clothing workshops which tailor-make clothes for disabled people who cannot buy them anywhere else. But it has taken the idea further. Here, disabled people design and make their own clothes and the emphasis is on the whole image - hair, skin, make-up, feeling-good about yourself.

Style Centre manager Jackie Whitworth is an ex-fashion lecturer. "Clothing is important to everybody," she said. "Image is important to everybody. Whether we like it or not, that

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tion that's just child's play



wasn't 'special needs'. He was just Chris."

JULIA HOLLOWAY

Down's Syndrome are primary school level, according to the Down's Syndrome Association (DSA). There are no official

didn't happen to Chris. He grew up in nearby villages, but automatically trooped off to the school when the time came, and the authority wanted Chris to go to a school in Kendal about 20 miles away. His family fought the decision. His father said: "I felt it'd be better for him to be with the other children. He was very happy travelling 40 miles a day there and everyone knew him in the area." He asked for the support of

Ravenstonedale school and got it. Head teacher Julia Holloway said: "It's a very close knit community. Chris was just part of what everyone accepted. He wasn't 'special needs' or anything like that. He was just Chris."

The Raines won their appeal and in 1988 Chris became Ravenstonedale's first disabled pupil. Before he could start, the school had to sort out help from Cumbria County Council. Chris was not toilet trained, had very little language and couldn't climb stairs. Pinning the council

down proved difficult. "It seemed like it was no-one's job," said Mrs Holloway.

Chris was eventually given a full-time assistant and started school a term later than the other pupils. He took it slowly at first, coming in three mornings a week and building up. "The whole school learnt Makaton" said Mrs Holloway, "but we only had to use it for about six months because he copied such a lot from the other children."

"Toilet training took longer. Eventually we used a reward system which pleased him. Hens fascinate him, and if he went to the loo he was allowed to have a hen stamp on the back of his hand. He would go home and show his mum how many he had each day."

The school has only 46 pupils, divided into two classes: one for 4-7 year olds, the other for 7-11 year olds. Chris still spends most of his time with the infants but joins the older children for reading.

Chris, who wants to be a farmer when he grows up, is happy at school: "I've got books, some toys. I like the teachers and playing football." The only bad side to school, it seems, is maths.

Mrs Raine is pleased with his progress. "He can read very well. He is behind his other classmates, but that's to be expected."

The other children see Chris

as "one of them" and there has never been a problem with bullying, says Mrs Holloway. "The children are very protective and they would be very upset if anyone hurt Chris."

Although integration into primary schools is becoming increasingly common, many children with Down's Syndrome don't make the switch to secondary schools. Sometimes, according to DSA director Anna Kahn, it is felt the gap between them and their peers will become too wide. Parents also worry about their children becoming lost in larger schools. "Some children have successfully integrated in larger comprehensive schools," said Mrs Kahn. "It really depends on the individual child."

With another year to go at Ravenstonedale, the Raine family will have to make their choices soon. Mrs Raine has been told about a special unit in a comprehensive 20 odd miles away in Penrith, or Chris could join the rest of the children at the local secondary school in Kirkby Stephen.

For the moment, though, all that's in the future. The next things on Chris's agenda are the school sports day and a production of *Alice*. As for the politicians, perhaps they could cut short their debates and take a trip to Cumbria to see how integration really works.

Down's Syndrome Association, 153-155 Mitcham Road, London SW17 9PG, tel: 081-682 4001.



Painting eggs for Easter

Fashion victims



shows off her waistcoat and Mark Langwieser is moisturised



thing that we're all judged on." Langwieser was on the five-day course with four others from school in Bolton.

That day, there's a session on colour, people into spring, summer, winter types depending on the suit them best.

Choose what to make. Not every can be satisfied. One guy wanted her suit but the machines weren't the lads from Birtenshaw were into suits, jeans, shirts - and sweatshirts. The cost of the materials. The machines are standard issue, with a control at the side and a foot pedal. One-to-one teaching means

everyone can use the machines in some way, even if it's just working the foot pedal while an assistant guides the fabric.

After choosing material in town, the garment is cut (using patterns drawn by the Centre's trained staff) and sewing starts. The week ends with a make-up and grooming session (boys have a basic cleanse, tone and moisturise) and a photo shoot.

Susie Heslop, 16, from Bethesda School in Cheadle, was on the Fashion Course last year. She made a waistcoat with multi-coloured appliqué detail.

"I felt it was my personality coming out in that," she told the BBC's Children In Need (the Centre's main sponsor).

"The course gives you confidence" she said. "It isn't very often disabled people are encouraged to think about fashion. You need to feel good about yourself. You can't be dressed up in really drab clothes and feel lively."

Other courses include "Make the most of Yourself" (for 14-18 year olds), "Feeling Good, Looking Good" (for over 18s) and "People Packaging" (for school leavers facing interviews).

Almost 300 people came here last year. Ms Whitworth works with schools and colleges to ensure classes keep coming back. The Centre is for people with any type of disability, including mental illness. It also offers work placements to special needs students.

Mark Langwieser thought the Fashion Course was "fantastic". Will he keep up the sewing? "I'd only do it as a one-off," he laughed. "I don't think I could be bothered with the hassle of making my own clothes."

The Centre is not out to create the next Coco Chanel. As Ms Whitworth said: "Our courses are about making the most of yourself, which is what most of us do anyway. It's just that perhaps the people who come to us haven't been made aware of all the options."

Susie Heslop put it another

way: "My image is important. I've got the right to be as fashionable as anyone else. I feel I've got something to offer and I don't want to stay on the back bench watching everyone else make the most out of life."

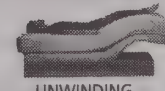
The Centre is part of Disabled Living, which also offers advice, information, assessments and displays equipment. Disabled Living, Redbank House, 4 St Chad's Street, Manchester M8 8QA, tel: 061-832 3678.

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INFORMATION/ADVICE

Allerdale Disability Association, 39 Brow Top, Workington, Cumbria CA14 5DP, tel: (0900) 65555. Self-help group, information.

Bradford Voluntary Action Group for Disabled Persons, 103 Dockfield Road, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD17 7AR, tel: (0274) 596030. Information, self-help groups.

Bury and District Disabled Advisory Council, Herbert Coates Community Centre, Morley Street, Bury BL9 9JQ, tel: 061-797 4898. Help and advice, home visits.

Castle Morpeth Disability Association, Morpeth Bridge Street Centre, 7a Bridge Street, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 2NT, tel: (0670) 510652. Information, holidays, benefits.

Chester and District Committee for the Disabled, Dial House, Hamilton Place, Chester CH1 2BH, tel: (0244) 345655. Information and advice, hospitality and library.

Derbyshire Coalition of

Disabled People, 117 High Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S45 9DZ, tel: (0246) 865305. Campaigning, information and advice.

DIAL Salford and Bolton, Guild Hall, Guild Avenue, Walkden M28 5AS, tel: 061-799 2222. Advice centre.

DIAL St Helens, Central Library, Victoria Square, St

Disablement Information Support Centre, Trinity Community Centre, Middle Street, Lancaster LA1 1JZ, tel: (0524) 34411. Counselling and information.

Durham County Association of the Disabled, Ground Floor Rear, Town Hall, Spennymoor, Durham DL4 1AN, tel: (0388) 812288. Advice, counselling.



The Liverpool Early Years Centre (see below), partly funded by the Spastics Society, has launched a £500,000 appeal for a new building to cater for over 80 children and their families

Helens WA10 1DY, tel: (0744) 453053. Information, library.

Disability Helpline, The Library, Southway, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6NL, freephone: (0800) 220676. Confidential and independent advice.

Gateshead Council on Disability, John Haswell House, 8/9 Gladstone Terrace, Gateshead NE8 4DY, tel: 091-477 3558. Information, training and one-to-one support.

Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled

People, Unit 33, Cariocca Enterprises Ltd, Ardwick, Manchester M12 4AH, tel: 061-273 5155. Information, library, quarterly magazine, campaigning.

Newcastle upon Tyne Council for the Disabled, Dene Centre, Castles Farm Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1PH, tel: 091-284 0480. Information and advice, continence helpline, equipment.

Stockport Disability Group, Newbridge Resource Centre, Cromer Street, Stockport SK1 2NY, tel: 061-480 7248. Advice, information, pressure group.

Yorkshire Association for the Disabled, 7/9 Harlow Oval, Harrogate HG2 0AA, tel: (0423) 504360. Information and advice line, residential care.

SERVICES

Accrington and District Inskip League of Friendship for the Disabled, 11 Avenue Parade, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 0AL, tel: (0254) 237323. Dial-a-Ride, social events.

Inskip League of Friendship for Disabled Persons, 14 Marigold Street, Deepdish, Rochdale OL11 1RJ, tel: (0706) 43747. Social events.

Liverpool Early Years Centre, Wood Lane, Netherley, Liverpool L27 4YA, tel: 051-488 0246. Integrated nursery (see picture above).

Mobility Information Service, Disabled Service Centre, Withington Hospital, Cavendish Road, Withington, Manchester M20 8LB, tel: 061-445 3899. Motoring advice.

West Lancashire Crossroads, c/o Ormskirk General Hospital, Wigan Road, Ormskirk L39 2AZ, tel: (0695) 576967. Respite for carers.

PUBLICATIONS

Disability Arts Magazine, 10 Wood Lane, Great Coates, Grimsby DN37 9NH, tel: (0472) 280031. Quarterly magazine in print, large print and on cassette.

Regional Arts and Disability Guide, new from Yorkshire and Humberside Arts, 21 Bond Street, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, WF13 1AX, tel: (0924) 455555. Lists organisations, publications, services and much more.

EQUIPMENT

Disabled Living Centres give information and demonstrations of equipment. There are several centres in the North. For a full list contact the Disabled Living Centres Council, 286 Camden Road, London N7 0BJ, tel: 071-700 1707. Blackpool, tel: (0253) 21084. Huddersfield, tel: (0484) 453000. Hull, tel: (0482) 28631. Leeds, tel: (0532) 793140. Liverpool, tel: 051-228 9221. Macclesfield, tel: (0625) 661740. Manchester, tel: 061-832 3678. Middlesbrough, tel: (0642) 850222 ext 158. Newcastle upon Tyne, tel: 091-284 0480. Stockport, tel: 061-419 4476.

Many national organisations have Northern offices. Contact them to find your local branch. If your group was not listed, send us details and we will try to mention it in future.

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FILM



Andy Kimpton-Nye

Candyman leaves a sour taste

from the viewpoint of the child Ludwig, keeping the intellectual stuff accessible.

Wittgenstein's theory is reduced to catchy sayings like "To understand a language is

to understand a life", or "Philosophy is just a by-product of misunderstanding language."

More difficult to grasp is disabled actor Nabil Shaban's role in the film, playing a whacky, green martian. I know what you're thinking: martians are aliens, disability is seen by the able-bodied as an "alien" state, etc, etc ...

But it's not quite like that. You can't tell Nabil Shaban is disabled. He is dressed up to the eyeballs, his wheelchair is completely covered in fake green grass straight from the local fruit and veg shop, and there's a whacking great glockenspiel rising up behind him. Again, I know what you're thinking: the costume designers must have gone out of their way to conceal his disability. No, because in the last scene up he pops in his birthday suit.

All this amounts to a disabled performer being used as just another actor. That's positive, don't you agree?



Candyman (Tony Todd) gets waspish with Virginia Madsen



Chris Davies

The Easter Bank Holiday edition of *Eldorado* (BBC1, twice weekly), saw Gwen and Drew Lockhead finally come around to their disabled daughter Nessa's budding romance. Thank God the storyline gave her a boyfriend before the soap's death. How ironic that on the one occasion that British popular tv drama creates a strong female disabled character, the programme is scrapped.

I hope the *Eldorado* production team is not deterred from introducing disability into further projects. I trust, too, that producers take note of the fantastic performance of Julie Fernandez.

The right-on charity event *Comic Relief* was almost entirely devoid of disability content (BBC1, 12 March). Maybe that's what makes it popular with the "rights not charity" supporters. BBC Schools showed Mike Devenney's excellent *Pride Against Prejudice* (BBC2, 10 March) - funded by Comic Relief - but it was tucked away on a Thursday morning. Almost 24 hours later, Isobel Ward performed her Comic Relief-commissioned song live on *Pebble Mill*, but again, morning audiences are not huge. Comic Relief's portrayal of disability is the best. Why not show it to the biggest audience possible?

Citizen 2,000 chronicles the lives of a group of children who will be 18 in the year 2,000. This year, the first programme (C4, 12 March) was devoted to Rachel, the only disabled child in the group. It showed the parents' relentless struggle, through operations on Rachel's feet and hips, to find "normality" for their daughter. When will parents learn to accept their offspring as they are?

Worse was to follow in the next two programmes. For the first time, *Citizen 2,000* gathered children from different races and classes together for a weekend, parent-free retreat. Only one problem: Rachel's mother said her daughter preferred to stay with her. For the programme makers, this was a tremendous opportunity lost. More importantly, what about Rachel's opportunity? Hopefully, Rachel's horizons will broaden before 2,000.

It's good to see the return of *Sign On* (C4, 27 March), still the best deaf programme being shown. *Link* (ITV, Sundays) and *Sign On* remain the leaders in their fields.

THEATRE

The Man who Loved Islands

Performed by Manchester disability arts group New Breed, this play is based on a D H Lawrence short story. A man in search of happiness goes to live on a remote Scottish island; with him are a housekeeper, her daughter, and a stonemason. Each is alone, an island in themselves. The spirit of the island objects to their intrusion and causes mischief.

Rarely do the characters come near each other on stage, or communicate in ordinary conversation. The mason chatters to two wooden dolls, the housekeeper sings songs and speaks to no-one.

There are moving and dramatic moments - the master

and the housekeeper's daughter giving in to a desire for human contact, only to lose the tenderness in harsh lovemaking; the housekeeper's daughter screaming in childbirth while her mother grips her hand and for the first time makes emotional contact with another human being. Throughout, the almost subliminal sound of seagulls and waves create a convincing sense of isolation.

And yet I felt dissatisfied, unsure of the message the actors were trying to convey. To have the first speech delivered in what sounded like Polish by Alex Dubrowsky as the master may have been intended to give the audience a sense of isolation, but it only succeeded in irritating me. Dialogue being virtually non-existent, there was little opportunity for real characterisation, with the result that meaning and depth fell by the wayside.

The nuggets of real value -

Andrea Conduit as the housekeeper's daughter and Keith Barlow as the mason demonstrating comic talent in the wedding scene - were lost in a sea of nothingness, from which I emerged 75 minutes later like a weary long-distance swimmer, wondering if I was the only one who felt I had somehow missed the whole point of the exercise.

Libby Cross

On tour. Contact Maggie Clarke, tel: 061-237 1885.

Look out for

Sign of the Times, "a roller-coaster ride through from the '60s to the '90s" in signed song by The Basic Theatre. 12 May. Spilsby Theatre, Lincolnshire. Tel: (0790) 52936. On tour, tel: 071-916 5427 (voice and minicom).

Disabled artists Gioya Steinke and Caroline James show their paintings and drawings. Till 15 May. Riverside Room, Richmond. Tel: 081-940 9125.

VIDEO

CS: closed subtitles, S: subtitles, NS: no subtitles

1. PATRIOT GAMES ((CIC) Harrison Ford as yet another hunted man in political thriller. (CS)

2. WHITE MEN CAN'T JUMP (Fox) Woody Harrelson from *Cheers* as basketball scam-artist. (CS)

3. HOUSESITTER (CIC) Steve Martin's house, Goldie Hawn is the sitter, in patchy

comedy. (CS)

4. LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN (20-20 Vision) Sentimental tale of women (including Madonna) recruited to form basketball team. Not bad. (CS)

5. CITY OF JOY (Warner) Patrick Swayze, India and serious drama. Not my idea of joy. (NS)

Andy Kimpton-Nye

Chart courtesy of MRIB

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Stuttering Prevented
by Dr W H Perkins
(Whurr Publications, 19b
Compton Terrace, London N1
2UN, tel: 071-359 5979,
£19.50)

This is the second book on stuttering I've reviewed in the past year (DN April '92). Can it be that stuttering is on its way out of the closet?

Dr Perkins' book is about prevention rather than cure. It sets out, in non-specialist language, a complete course for families on how to prevent young children who show signs of stuttering from becoming stutterers.

After 40 years research in America, he is convinced that prevention works. The statistics are on his side: of the four per cent of children who start to stutter, half recover naturally within a year and three quarters by puberty. Now nobody should start in the first place.

A stutterer myself of the most relapsing and closeted kind, I was severely challenged, even slightly scandalized, by some of the ideas in this book. Did I find them uncomfortable because there is some truth in them?

For instance, Dr Perkins asserts that, deep in the subconscious, young children learn to use stuttering as a powerful tool to galvanise attention.

He goes on to describe older, entrenched stutterers as "giants in chains": people whose temperament, upbringing or position in the family have prevented them from developing the ability to

be assertive. When they do get the chance to speak with authority, or express anger or frustration, they find it unacceptable and so neutralise the effect by stuttering. This

articulate-imaginary-self and real-stuttering-self causes acute tension, throat-tightening spasms and inability to speak. It is a vicious circle.

The two thirds of the book



Remembering Mum a children's photo book by Ginny Perkins and Leon Morris, is dedicated to Mandy, Sam and Eddy's mum who died in 1988. A&C Black, 35 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH, £5.99.

becomes a powerful covering in itself, protecting the stutterer from challenge and the possibility of defeat. It is assertiveness without risk.

Stutterers, like some other disabled people, have a fantasy image of what they might be like if they didn't stutter. Whenever they are put to the test, the conflict between

devoted to preventing children becoming stutterers is clearly set out, sensitive and thorough. In fact, it could double as a manual on child care. It is about responding from birth when the child asks (rather than when the adult feels needy), caring, sharing and the giving of quality time. Any child, whatever his or her

difficulty, would grow up a happy, confident person in such an environment.

There are guides to whole family sessions in which you can practise taking turns, speaking slowly, not interrupting, and allowing plenty of time.

"Not everybody who stutters is a stutterer" says Dr Perkins. "It depends whether or not they feel they are stuttering."

Food for thought there for everyone, whatever their disability.

Amanda Cornish

Depression - The Way Out of Your Prison

by Dorothy Rowe
(Routledge, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4P 4EE, £6.99)

Dorothy Rowe is a clinical psychologist with a strong Christian belief. She thinks therapists should find out the religious beliefs of their clients and look carefully at their view of an after life.

Ms Rowe writes about psychological theory in layperson's terms, using interesting prose and poetry to describe the stages of depression.

Basic psychological principles on guilt, unforgiveness, love, and feeling bad or rejected, are dealt with in detail. The key words are responsibility and change. Ms Rowe does not take the responsibility out of the depressed person's hands. She looks at consequences of not tackling your depression and not changing.

Depression covers the whole range of emotion that any person who has ever been

depressed can identify with. For example, "If you stay depressed, every day is the same", "Terrible though the prison of depression is, it tends to be a refuge from still greater horrors", "The worst part is when I am coming out of the depression".

The book takes you through the stages of depression, but it is not until chapter seven that she discusses clinical technique. She recommends relaxation, meditation and self-help groups. There is also a helpful insight into coping with depression when you go into hospital.

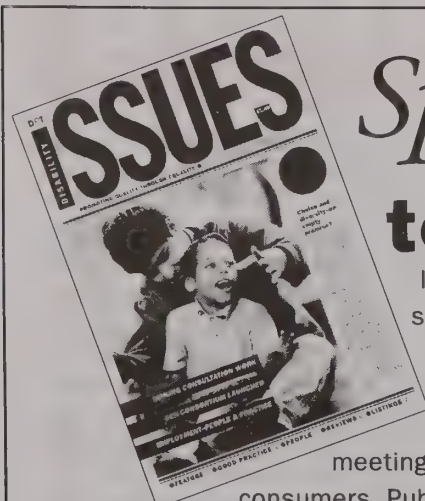
Although it would have had



A Senior Citizen goes to College is the autobiography of Patrick Brannigan. After a lifetime working in the mines in the North East, where he lost a leg, he went back to school. From P. Brannigan, 15 Lancaster House, Brownrigg Drive, Cramlington, £1.50.

far more impact if it had been half the length, *Depression* is well worth a read, if only to identify with the feelings expressed. And you are left with an overwhelming sense of how Ms Rowe values her clients as people, rather than case histories.

Lin Berwick



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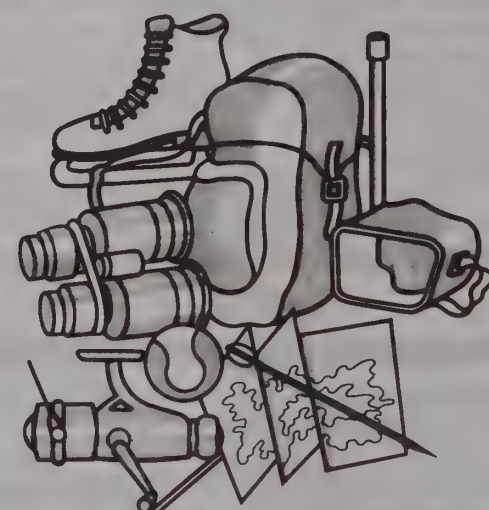
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MOBILITY

More fun, colour and real independence

Good news for visitors to the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in March: a bigger-than-ever Naidex which not only attracted more people than two years ago, but left many saying they would return for a second day.

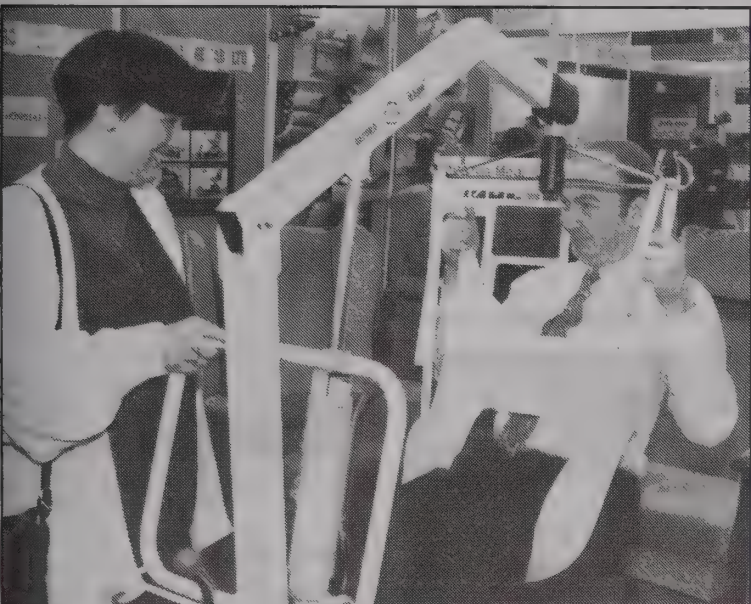
Manufacturers also reported doing well.

There was plenty of room for wheelchair users. The only criticisms were about the heat, and the fact that Scottish Naidex is always held in Glasgow - why not Edinburgh or Stirling for a change?

Adult wheelchairs

There were two new manual chairs in the lightweight range.

The Meteor Model (right) from R J Mobility is an active user chair both rigid and very manoeuvrable, so it is good for everyday and leisure. The bright colours, logo and speedy turning give it a definite "street cred". It folds for easy transportation and has a detachable back-rest and quick release wheels. There are many optional extras too, like push handles and a back-rest height



New sling on the Oxford hoist allows clothes to be removed

S C O T T I S H naidex '93

DN's experts report from Glasgow



Action man Ivan Jackson wears out his wheelchairs in nine months. He challenged R J Mobility to let him wear out the Meteor over Naidex. He lost, but got a free Meteor! COLIN PRIOR

adjuster. Price on application. Tel: (0934) 628151.

The Quickie GPV high performance, lightweight chair from Gerald Simonds Health-

care has been endorsed by Randy Snow, national wheelchair tennis champion. Ideal for sport and everyday, it comes in several colours and is totally adjustable to individual requirements - axle position, centre of gravity, chair angle. With a wide range of footrests,

castors, front frames, etc. From £1,195. Tel: (0296) 436557.

Disability Care Services, now the sole UK agent for two Scandinavian companies, had several new products.

Euroflex makes manual and electric power chairs which have variable posture options and body, foot and head supports. The Active Therapy Chair 341/441 is a dynamic posture chair which has all the benefits of forward tilt option, plus knee blocks and gas

THANKS FROM DN

DN would like to thank Margaret MacDonald, superintendent physiotherapist of the External Therapy and Advisory Services (West) of the Scottish Council for Spastics, and members of her team: senior physiotherapist Evelyn Gavin, senior occupational therapists Valerie Ferguson and Anne McMahon, and senior speech therapist Sally Boa, for their help in researching and writing this feature.

spring seat lift. From £428.

An Electrical Seat Angle and Height Adjuster 491 was perfect for standing-to-sitting-to-standing. It comes with a choice of supports and a hand-brake. From £1,264.

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If you get tired hand propelling your wheelchair, consider the exciting Commuter from Fortress, a manual chair that switches to power control when you flip two levers. Price on application. Tel: (0329) 828444.

Scooters and buggies

Three new scooters from Electric Mobility Europe: the 200 Classic, a fixed frame model; the Rascal 7 with large wheels for easy kerb climbing, and the Rascal Challenger, a four-wheel power chair which manoeuvres remarkably well indoors and out. Prices on application. Tel: (0935) 22156.

For adventurous spirits, there's Scot Trak's Venturer, a four-wheel drive buggy that will carry two people and cope with rough terrain. It can be fitted with a single hydraulic seat that moves out of the cab to help with wheelchair transfers. Price on application. Tel: (0667) 55592.

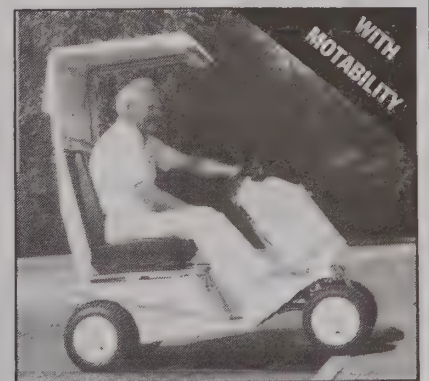
Continued on page 24

NEWTON introduce the Sport Electric Vehicle

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DN 5/93

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Extra mobility for around £100!



Two ways to put your feet up: in the classy Roltec power chair, (left), or with Mangar's air pressure leg supporter

IN THE HOME

If it's comfort, dignity and flexibility you are after ...

Kirton was showing the **Persona** postural support chair, which can be adjusted and altered to suit anyone's shape, size or condition. It is adjusted *in situ* to "envelope" the sitter. Minor £730, Major £770. Tel: (0440) 705352.

Mangar had several interesting cushions and supports.

The **Mangar Lifting Cushion** is a soft, simple cushion of air for your chair.

Inflated, it lifts you ready to stand; deflated, it lowers you gently back again. No spring adjustment needed. £100.

The **Mangar Leg Supporter** uses low air pressure to raise and rest aching legs and encourage good circulation. It will attach to most chairs, but check first. £160.

The **Mangar Leglifter** fitted to the side of your bed lifts, carries and transfers your legs into bed without anyone's help. Fully inflated to an upright position, it becomes the **Mangar Cotside**. Prices available when production starts in a couple of months.

Finally, the **Mangaroo** is an attractive, neat, portable battery powerpack to provide the air supply for your lifting system. £230. Tel: (0544) 267674.

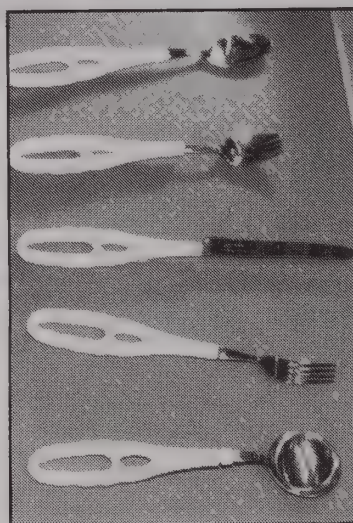
Bathrooms and hoists

Parker Bath Developments' **Dignity Shower Cubicle** has a swivel seat with a locking handle. The seat is swivelled

out of the cubicle and locked. When someone is seated, the lock can be released, the seat swivelled into position in the shower and a curtain pulled across. The cubicle is 42 in wide and 27 and a half in deep. £1,345, not including shower, but Parker can provide a Myra Excel Shower £225.

The **Parker Liberty Bath** is a moulded bath cubicle with a locking seat that is raised and lowered hydraulically (from a power point outside the bathroom). It is manually swivelled in and out of the bath. Cubicle size: 74 and a half in wide, 27 and a half in deep. £2,140 excluding taps and shower. Tel: (0425) 622287.

The EC hoists regulations on manual load handling came



JMC Rehab's new cutlery

into force in January. There were plenty of examples on show for home, school or residential care.

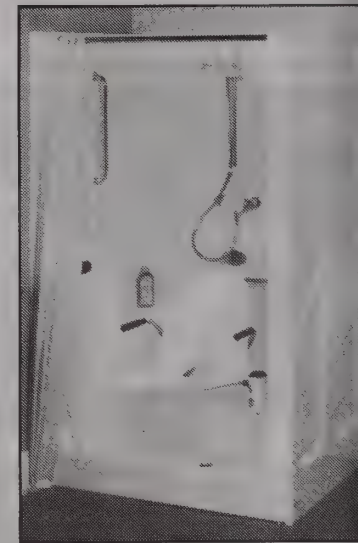
Parker Bath had a versatile **Dual Function Hoist**, battery operated, which converts easily to take either a seat with arm supports and optional hip and waist straps, or a sling. Maximum load 140 kgs from the floor. £2,200 with seat and sling, £1,895 with sling. Tel: see below left.

The **Arjo Libra** portable, battery operated hoist fits most standard baths and needs no installation. Ideal for travel, because the seat and lifting mechanism separate easily for cleaning or transport.

Specially designed suction cups attach the hoist securely to the bath during use and release when the chair is tilted forward. Maximum load 114 kgs. £775. Tel: (0452) 500200.

W Munro (Rehab), the main agents in Scotland for EJ Payne, showed a **Dressing Sling Attachment** in various sizes for the Oxford hoists. People can have clothes removed for toileting while using the hoist. £97. Tel: 041-950 1316.

Peter Brown showed a similar **quilted sling** for the Chiltern Wispa hoists. From £125. Tel: 041-882 9946.



Parker's new shower cubicle

Good ideas

Nottingham Rehab has a new range of **polymer cutlery** with handles which can be moulded to the shape you need by dipping them first in hot water and then in cold. Only adult sizes so far. £15 per item. Tel: (0602) 452345.

The **Phlexicare Voice Unit** from Nicobond (Scotland) gives an audible warning to visually impaired people when they are approaching a hazard. A pre-recorded message (up to 50 seconds) is connected to a passive infra-red sensor and speaks automatically when you are within 10 metres of the hazard. Electrically operated with automatic battery back-up. Indoor model, £124.95, outdoor £229.95 (both plus VAT). Tel: 041-248 5355.

A height-adjustable, speed controlled **potter's wheel** from Roma will suit wheelchair users too. Angled so you see inside the pot better. £1,395. Tel: (0446) 774519.



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DN 5/93

CHILDREN

Plenty of ideas to make the trip worthwhile

Thank goodness wheelchair manufacturers are at last realising that children with special needs grow and have different posture.

At Rainbow Rehab, the R82 Panda is attractive and "ordinary" looking. It has a hydraulic height adjuster, tilt'n space recline, and an independent seat and back tilt with support as required. There are two thicknesses of cushion and various headrests. It will fit on

were showing a stylish indoor/outdoor pushchair with seat belt, a full range of body supports and a gas spring seat lift. The Child's Relax Push Chair starts at £599. Tel: see page 23.

If you haven't been able to find a tricycle for a small child, the Imp from Theraplay may be the answer. It has thoracic and pelvic support and sandal attachments for the pedals. £190. Tel: (0294) 58658.

The Dual-Cycle from Howie Cycles gives the child with severe motor impairment the chance to enjoy cycling. It is basically two bikes joined together with driver control on the right. Price on application. Tel: (0290) 25910.

ties Via Education) range of equipment, designed to promote the development of postural control and movement. £442.40. (The Mobile Prone Stander has now been adapted for adults. Four small wheels, aligned vertically, have replaced the two large wheels. £616.60.) Tel: (0580) 880626.

Chairs and chair frames

Disability Care Services have produced a versatile new range of Goodwood chairs and accessories made from Canadian maple - very pleasing to the eye. Five sizes of seat height, 7in to 17in from the floor. Accessories include adjustable arm and footrests, trays and grabrails, seat pads, head supports and chair raising and tilting frame. Basic chair £91 to £131 depending on size. Tel: see page 23.

Rifton have again turned up trumps by adding the MOV804 Universal Chair Frame to their comprehensive range. Now a child or adult can sit safely on an ordinary chair, and it can be taken on holiday too. Fully adjustable, with seating heights 20cm to 48cm, it has extra straps to clip round the waist and the chair-back and forearm supports with straps. Useful in many training situations, including toileting, as it gives support. Maximum weight 82 kgs. £231. Tel: see above.

Feeding

The Mag Mag from Nottingham Rehab is a new feeding system, a two-handled beaker with a teat, feeding spout and straw. Neat and compact. £7.50 complete. Tel: (0602) 452345.

JMC Rehab has an interesting new range of children's multigrip cutlery with colourful handles that can be extended, enlarged or angled to suit individual needs. Knife, fork and spoon are £5 each, spork £6.25, handle £2.15. Tel: (0236) 764874.

Toys

"All children, young people and adults have the right to choose from a wide range of play, leisure and recreation

All the Supa-Bykes from WRK have modular frames, which give terrific adjustability. A larger frame can be fitted when the child gets older, saving you the cost of a new bike. From £265. Tel: (0945) 880014.

Walking aids

Little that was new here, but Rifton's Front-Leaning Gait Trainer (above, right) was impressive. It is part of the MOVE (Mobility Opportuni-



Admiring the Huggy Buggy with its unique seating system

to a buggy frame too. From £700, buggy frame extra. Tel: (0202) 481818.

The Huggy Buggy from Theraplay combines the convenience of a folding pushchair with a unique, adjustable, supportive seating system to meet each child's needs. It can be transferred onto an indoor chassis for use at home or school. For four to ten-year-olds. From £575. Tel: (0294) 58658.

Disability Care Services

Where are they off to? See page 26



Family jaunt: Gordon Walker with Craig on the back of his bike and Grant in his customised buggywheeler. Mum Barbara took the photo. "It was the only way to get us all out!"



Thomas McCann, 5, from Coatbridge, enjoying Rifton's gait trainer. So is his mum and the Rifton team.

COLIN PRIOR

services", is the belief of Planet (Play, Leisure, Advice Network).

Their stand was a delight to see because they encourage many toys and play materials, not just those made by firms specialising in special needs equipment. There was a wide range of handmade games and equipment, from puppets to

feely bags and padded noughts and crosses. They also had materials suitable for a sensory bank.

Here are three particularly appealing examples. Skwish is a mesh of wooden rods, string and beads - plenty of moving parts for inquiring fingers - from Einstein, £6.95 plus

Continued on page 26

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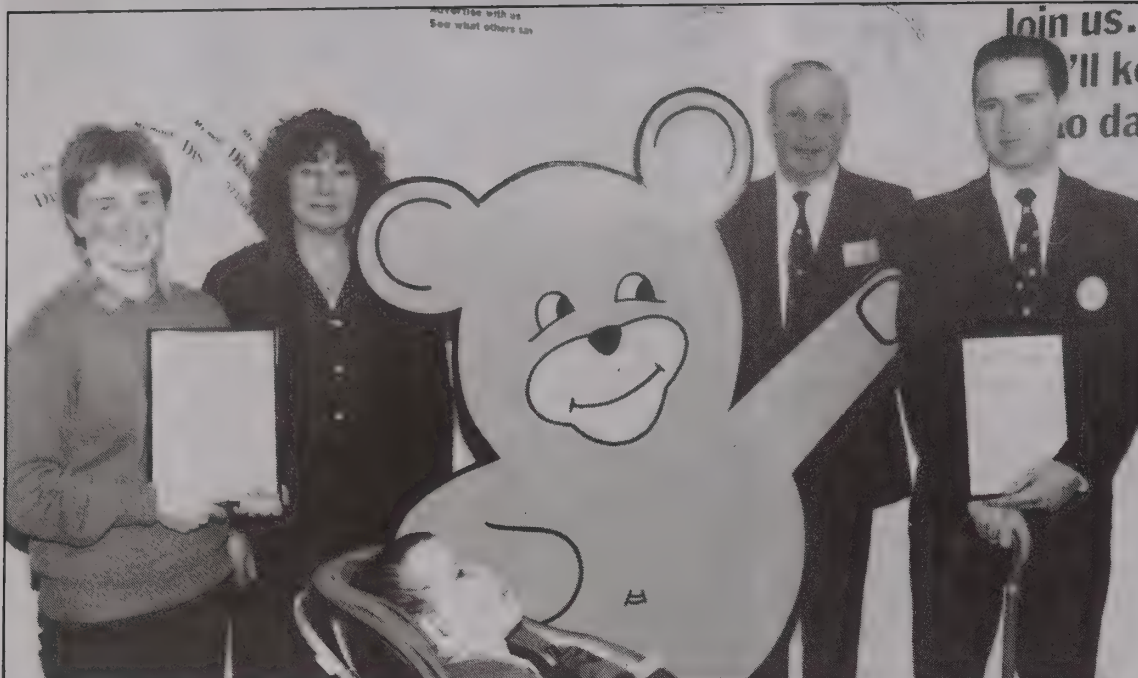
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Address _____

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Stannah Stairlifts Limited is part of the Stannah Lifts Group.

DN's Writing Competition winners



Highlight of DN's first trip to Scottish Naidex was the prize giving to winners of the DN Scottish Writing Competition, sponsored by Reed International, organisers of Naidex. From left, Mrs Barbara Walker with her son Grant, who took third place and a bottle of whisky, DN editor Mary Wilkinson, Reed group director Michael Clemson, and winner Martin O'Connor, who received a £100 cheque. Runner-up, Roderick S MacDonald, who won £50, could not attend. Sidney Supa Bear, from WRK mobility equipment, joined the party.

TECHNOLOGY

Not much communication going on

Only a small number of suppliers of hi-tech communications aids made it across the border to Naidex.

Most notable were some new products from Toby Churchill. For switch users the SL81 (with row column

scanning) and the SL82 (with alphabetical scanning) have super-bright, back-lit displays, a boon to people with visual difficulties. £1,100.

Modifications to Toby Churchill SL30 include a black-and-white "graphic" keyboard and two new speech synthesisers, Eurotalk and Keynote Gold. Keynote Gold, in particular, gives a clearer, less robotic voice than the current one. Prices to be decided. Tel: (0223) 316117.

British Telecom introduced their Converse II, a much

more flexible model than the Claudius Converse. It is programmed using a recorded voice and can store up to four minutes of speech. Messages can be re-recorded anytime. £288.75 plus VAT. Tel: (0800) 800150. Ask for the action for disabled customers' manager.

Canon showed a new version of an old friend, the Canon Communicator. Modifications include recording and play-back features, row-column scanning for switch users and a message memory. £800 plus VAT. Tel: 081-773 3173.

Toys

Continued from page 25

£2.95 p&p. Tel: 081-773 3173.

The Runaway Hedgehog is a good toy for encouraging movement in young children. Every time the child reaches towards the hedgehog, it runs away (due to a heat-sensitive area on its back). £14.99 (plus p&p) from Raven Educational Supplies, tel: (0933) 279108.

The Jumping Spider, responds to noise and vibration. £15.50 from Hamleys, London or TFH, Raven Educational or Rompa.

Talking of TFH, they have added Phydo to their successful Pethna range. (The Pethna system, a toy and training aid for all levels of disability, has a high quality stereoplayer with an endless tape on which sounds or music can be recorded.) Phydo consists of a base unit, £360, to which can be added a lights unit with four flashing lights, £109, and to that a fan, £22.50 and a vibrating seat, £83.50.



Toys for fun and training: from left, jumping spider, runaway hedgehog, skwish

There is also a magic window, £149, which lights up when activated, a turntable, £57.50 and the black beauty, £24.50, with UV bulbs and a curtain of day-glo strips hung inside. NB. TFH have produced a much-needed catalogue detailing games and amusements for teenagers and adults.

Finally, not a toy, but something which prevents children from scratching themselves. The Limiter from JMC Rehab fits on like a pair of pants with attachments for the wrists. £16.85 to £18.85. Tel: see page 25.



All wet and squidgy: Roma's potter's wheel is designed for use by everyone, including wheelchair users of all ages.

THE NEW VOLKSWAGEN CARAVELLE BY INVATRAVEL CONVERSIONS



Various options of wheelchair access available on this super new model, including underfloor electro-hydraulic lifts, hydraulic lowering rear suspension with spring assisted alloy ramp, manual ramps etc. Disabled driver options for full independence.

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Contact Paul Cassidy, tel: 0704-506608, fax: 0704-506607. 66 Knob Hall Lane, Southport PR9 9QS.



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Win £1,000 worth of prizes

To get you in the mood for summer, Remploy is giving away two of its popular wheelchairs in a special Remploy/Disability Now Out and About competition. The two lucky winners will be



Stowaway: handy traveller

pictured in the Out and About feature in the July DN.

The Remploy Roller is designed for active everyday use or for sport. It is made from light, strong, racing cycle tubing, and comes complete with a folding backrest and quick release wheels so that it should fit easily into most cars.

The Remploy Stowaway is a lightweight chair for the less "sporty" user. It folds down to a handy, compact size which should fit into the smallest of spaces. You can choose from

self-propelled or attendant-propelled models.

How to enter

All you have to do is select the answers to the five multiple choice questions and complete the tie-breaker.

Write your answers and your tie-breaker on a sheet of paper with your name, address and daytime telephone number, if you have one. Clearly state which wheelchair you prefer - Roller or Stowaway (attendant or self-propelled). Then send it to the Marketing Department, Remploy Wheelchairs, 11 Nunnery Drive, Sheffield S2 1TA.

4. What is "Tripscope"?
a) A travel agency
b) A charity offering travel advice
c) An arts magazine

5. Where will the 1993 British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships be held?
a) Sheffield
b) Wimbledon
c) Nottingham

Tie-breaker

Complete the following sentence in not more than 15 words. "In my new Remploy wheelchair I would like to"

Closing date: 3 June.
Winners notified by 4 June.



Champion javelin thrower Elaine Ord uses the Roller

1. The National Trust publishes a booklet *Information for Disabled Visitors*. How many properties are listed in it?
a) 120 b) 182 c) 273

2. What is the current discount on a British Rail Disabled Person's Railcard?
a) 33% b) 50% c) 25%

3. Who won the Holiday Care Service Award for Best Attraction in 1992?
a) Leeds Castle in Kent
b) The Plymouth Dome
c) West Somerset Railway



The Roller (left) for action and the convenient Stowaway (self-propelled version)

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Share Your Problems

When sex isn't doing what comes naturally



Ann Darnbrough, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Sex is doing what comes naturally, isn't it? Well, yes and no. It's the word "naturally" that's the problem. When our inhibitions, emotions and bad memories of rejection get in the way, sex can seem anything but natural.

Most of us explore sex in our teens, when we tend to be equally fumbling and incompetent. But people who missed out on these experiences, because they were shy or nervous, or had a disability (which they felt made them look different at an age when conforming seemed to be so important), may enter adulthood without any sexual experience. Experiences behind the famed bicycle shed may be no more than a dream for some youngsters.

One reader, who I will call Harry, writes that he had a sad adolescence and puberty due to torsion (twisting) of the testicle, as well as brain damage. As an adult he can still only dream of having sex with a woman: "My sexuality really means so much to me as I am a single man and a lonely man too ... I would love to

make love to a woman. How can I go about this task?"

If we go through our teens without gaining sexual experience it can then be difficult to break through the mental and emotional barriers which prevent us enjoying and sharing our sexuality. Above all, the goal of losing our virginity can seem unattainable.

Sexual surrogacy

Did you see the programme on BBC2 (12 Jan) *Sex and Independence ... What a Revelation?* Kim Jessup, who has cerebral palsy, described his early and very dependent life in a home and his struggles for independence. As he put it, he had to "escape from prison". Kim also discussed his sexual needs frankly: "Since puberty I have been aware of my sexuality, but no one else has."

Kim heard about a service in Holland where surrogate therapists provide services for disabled people. In this form of therapy, a surrogate partner is a man or woman who is prepared to act as a sexual partner to those who need help to overcome sexual problems.

Alicia wrote to me from Stichting Alternatieve Relatiebemiddeling (SAR) an organisation in Holland: "We give our services to men and women - hetero and homosexual. Perhaps it is true what you wrote in your article, that women miss the affection most, not the sexual side of things. I personally agree with that. We give some affection, but the relationship never goes very deep. This is impossible, it would only bring more frustration on both sides."

"I'm helping men myself and have a lot of positive experience with that. They have an outlet for their sexual feelings and this gives them more pleasure in life and less stress."

"The wish to have a real love relationship stays, but for many disabled people this may be too difficult. So we provide a substitute. After their first experience, if this is a success, they mostly feel less 'disabled' and more man! If an orgasm is not possible, we give them affection, hug and caress them, and give them the pleasure that they can get from our body, like seeing it and feeling it naked. The men who never had a sexual experience are mostly frustrated by this and the frustration cannot be talked away - it only grows bigger and bigger over the years."

Surrogate therapy is not generally available in the UK, but Dr Martin Cole can occasionally provide surrogate treatment. He has three people working as surrogate therapists (two women and one man). Unfortunately, his premises are not easily accessible to wheelchair users. It would be

necessary for a disabled client to bring somebody who could help overcome the steps.

Dr Cole told me how difficult the first sexual experience can be for an adult who has grown up without finding sex along the way. In this situation, a surrogate can be very helpful.

"With a surrogate the need to please is removed: he's already paid her, he's pleased her. He's not under the same obligation to please her sexually or emotionally. He needn't be on his best

he said in the film "What will happen afterwards? Will I always have to buy sex? Will anyone want me for myself?"

Kim discovered sex, but didn't find love. However, the experience may have helped him to progress towards new experiences. None of us know when we will find love. It often seems to turn up when we least expect it.

More affection

Carol (not her real name) was prompted to write about her need for affection being greater than that for sex. She says: "I find that men have a complete preoccupation with sex and physical perfection which seems to screen out the longer-lasting, invaluable qualities of companionship, in favour of the transient veneer of initial sexual attraction. So to my mind it is only the very discerning partner (exceptional) who is going to choose visibly 'damaged goods'."

"I suspect that disabled people will be most indignant at being called 'damaged goods' - I speak for myself as I have Fredreich's Ataxia. But let's face it, there is some truth in it. I definitely feel that able-bodied men avoid social contact with disabled women from embarrassment or perhaps a suspect reflection on their 'ego'. Whatever the reason, I find disability very isolating."

Do you agree? I look forward to hearing your views. I always enjoy reading your letters and will reply personally and include as many excerpts in the column as I can. Please let me know if I may use your name.

SAR, Postbus 875, 3700 AA Zeist, The Netherlands, tel: (01031-3404) 60390.
Dr Cole, tel: 021-449 0892.

A UNIQUE SERVICE!

The DN telephone counsellor, Lin Berwick, is a psychotherapeutic counsellor, fully accredited

Methodist local preacher and now a qualified homeopath. Disabled herself, she can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (0708) 477582.

DN's helpline is sponsored by The Wellcome Foundation Limited.

behaviour, a very important element in the process of relaxation. He can be himself."

It is clear that with surrogates we are just talking about sex. Love and affection are not involved. Kim expressed this concern when

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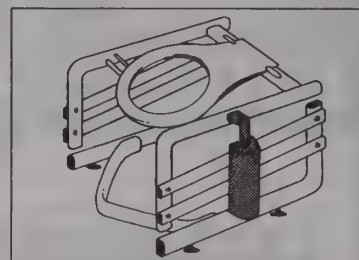
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parents can dread leaving a child with communication difficulties in a hospital ward or in respite care.

How can a stranger possibly understand your child's special ways, the signs and clues which indicate needs or wants? This fear can make big demands on the main carer, especially in a small family which lacks the support a large one can give.

Our daughter Lizzie is 12 years old and has had more hospital admissions than I care to count. She was born prematurely after only 26 weeks gestation. She has cerebral palsy with little sight or control and no effective speech.

Many of Lizzie's hospital admissions have been to specialist hospitals 50 miles from home. Having three other children, I could not stay with her after the first night.

The idea

Before one pre-arranged hospital admission, I decided to compile some notes on a word processor to try and help the staff understand Lizzie. The ward sister placed them with Lizzie's other records and gave instructions to all nurses on the ward to read them.

I updated and elaborated the notes, in straightforward language, when we started to receive short periods of respite care.

Then Lizzie was taken into voluntary care for three months while I had a hysterectomy and recovered enough to be allowed to lift her again. She stayed with her respite care family, Karen and Peter and their three children, so she was able to continue at her usual school. But Peter and Karen were also given "respite" by other families at weekends: a total of four families were involved in all. I sent copies of the notes to everyone, including our family doctor and our social worker.

Nightmare scenario

When my father died last year, Lizzie went to stay with Karen while I flew from Northern Ireland to the funeral in London. Almost immediately, she became ill with pneumonia. On the day of the funeral, our GP admitted her to the general children's ward in the local hospital.

He very wisely sent his copy of my notes with her. When I arrived back I discovered that the notes had become a topic of discussion.

The staff thought they were "marvellous". Not only was looking after Lizzie "so much easier", apparently they had helped to explain past problems with other children with communication difficulties. I was told they planned to use photocopies as part of their nursing training.

The notes transformed a patient into a person. Lizzie became a little girl, rather than



Lizzie and Joan: "The notes transformed a patient into a person"

JOAN SHANNON

How I can leave my child with strangers

When Lizzie has to stay away from home, six pages of notes go with her. Her mother, Joan Shannon, explains why

a difficult case, a dry set of complicated medical records.

Compile your own

I am sure other parents would find notes about their children equally helpful. A word processor is not essential, although it is useful for updating. Clear handwriting, photocopied, should work just as well.

Lizzie's notes start with her date of birth, address and phone number, then include details of her GP and specialist consultants, so that anyone can be contacted easily if necessary. A brief layperson's guide to her condition, medical history and medication follows. She sometimes has fits so I describe the form they usually take.

The notes evolved over a period of time and were added to as problems arose. They consist of short paragraphs under headings: Feeding, Toileting, Sleep, Going Out, Toys, Speech and

Understanding, Temperament, Special Equipment and Requirements.

Under "Feeding", for example, I say: "If she wants to drink when she is being offered a spoon, she will turn her head away and try to discourage you with her right arm. After the drink, she will happily accept the food again and refuse both when she has had enough."

I list what she usually eats and how she eats it. "We rarely eat Indian or Chinese food but do have Italian, so she is used to garlic, herbs, pasta and rice."

For "Toileting", I describe her support arrangements, nappies and how to avoid constipation.

Under "Sleep" I say: "Tears under the right circumstances (time of day, number of hours awake), often mean bedtime. She will shout for attention during the night, if she is uncomfortable in some way or hears other people moving

about. If she is just making a fuss, she will settle again once the noise she hears has ceased."

The "Going Out" section includes car journeys, hydrotherapy sessions, shops and school. "... she likes to be where something is happening, especially if she feels part of it."

"Toys" list those she can play with, and how, and suggestions from her occupational therapist. Other activities and exercises could

be covered here.

"Speech and Understanding" and "Temperament" are important sections. How much can she understand? What does that noise mean?

"Guessing what she wants is a matter of trial and error, using common sense. I usually start with the nappy or food and drink. It is worth asking: 'Do you want to go to bed?' 'Have you lost your toy?' Attentive silence seems to mean yes, continued shouts, no."

Include helpful snippets like: "Occasionally she has taken a dislike to a place, usually somewhere full of strange echoes: no soft furnishings, perhaps, or noises, like loud air conditioning."

I also include a checklist of equipment: wheelchair, car seat, nappies, medicines and important food like Weetabix.

Get advice

It is important to consult your doctor for medical accuracy when compiling your notes. Ask your physiotherapist for help describing exercises. If you can draw, illustrations might help. Discuss anything you are not sure about with the rest of the family or someone who knows your child well.

Put everything in, but briefly and under headings, so that the notes are not too daunting. They could grow quite long - Lizzie's cover six A4 pages at the moment.

Before I compiled Lizzie's notes things would always get forgotten and I would telephone the hospital to discover that some unforeseen problem had arisen. Now it's different, and who knows, the notes might have been a life-saver when she had pneumonia and I was away at the funeral.

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The new shape in small cars

Mini cars you will either love or hate, helpful adaptations and a good-looking day van - *Disability Now's* motoring correspondent, David Griffiths, checks them out

Nissan kicked off the year with the Micra automatic. The all-new design incorporates the latest trend in shapes to come, and you'll either love it or hate it.

Elastic band technology

Replacing what was one of the best small cars ever for the disabled driver will not be easy, and opting for elastic band technology in the form of a constantly variable automatic transmission is sure to lose Nissan friends, especially amongst the driving instructor fraternity.

You'll have a fight to get a wheelchair in the hatch too, but it is after all "The Car of the Year" which could make up for any shortcomings.

Although not due to arrive until mid-summer, Vauxhall's Corsa Automatic will boast the pukka thing and four speed at that.

Like Nissan with the Micra, Vauxhall is aiming for the new shape in mini cars and how often do you learn of a "latest version" or "replacement model" which is cheaper than the one it replaces? Many Corsas actually cost considerably less than their Nova predecessors. This, coupled with surprisingly good access, 17 models to choose from, neat interior and quality trim, plus the reputation for reliability which the Nova earned, should ensure it great popularity. Hopefully, I shall

be able to offer a full test report in a future issue.

As it is, I can vouch for the excellent drive qualities of the new Astra Automatic. Again, a four-speed automatic transmission with good access

announced the Mondeo.

Cunningly got up to confuse the odd Mazda spotter, the car has already won great acclaim from those who have been fortunate to try it.

For this model, at least,

simple, electronic throttle system for just £69, fitted at the Kew Bridge works, or by post for £40 (plus p&p). Fitting instructions are simple and should be well within the capabilities of any small garage

"must" over the years, but the advent of the air bag means that they are no longer ideal. A month-long test on the unit produced no complaints other than the actual size of the knob, which some felt could be larger. It remained securely fixed throughout the test and at under £20 is priced very competitively.

Splendid day van

Alf Shortland of Continental Motor Campers has just completed a splendid "day van" for the disabled user.

Based on the latest automatic diesel Volkswagen unit, it incorporates full wheelchair access, rear-located adapted, electric flushing toilet and removable table, swivelling seats and ramped access. Finished in deep maroon with contrasting grey units from the Reimo Concept range, it looked particularly attractive on their stand at the Caravan and Leisure Show held at the National Exhibition Centre in February. Each vehicle is constructed to individual requirements.

Finally, a sad farewell to perhaps the North of England's most famous vehicle adaptation company - Motor Services of Stretford, renamed Mobility Services - which ceased to trade just after Christmas. Two former employees have set up the new Mobility Workshop in South Manchester hoping to continue offering the same standards of service.



The three and five door Corsa. Many models cost less than their Nova predecessors.

and excellent handling. The three-door model only has a 1.4 engine which will cause a few groans. On the Millbrook track it appeared to struggle a bit on the steeper inclines, but it often takes a couple of thousand miles before the engine is capable of delivering anything like its best. Again, a full report is planned for the future, so ensure your *DN* subscriptions are renewed.

Not to be outdone, Ford

is not using the CTX system, but will offer an American electronic four-speed automatic later in the year. By contrast, the petrol engines hail from Bridgend, South Wales.

There are two basic versions - saloon and five-door hatchback - and a choice of four engine sizes plus a V6 to come.

Production of the automatic Escort is still halted "due to technical problems" and we are unlikely to see any before September this year.

Disabled motorist's cramp

A long motorway slog on hand controls in a vehicle with a heavy accelerator is a sure-fire way to get the disabled motorist's version of writer's cramp. Cruise controls are expensive luxuries and the cost deters many who would otherwise reap the benefits.

Recognising this, Reselco, one of the oldest companies involved in disabled driver adaptations, is offering a

or competent DIY enthusiast.

Once installed, you drive up to your chosen speed, flick the switch and relax. Touching the brakes immediately disengages it. Alternatively, it can be disengaged manually via a small red button on the box housing. Those using foot controls reap the same benefits of course. Well worth trying if you suffer from "throttle fatigue".

New from Brian Page Controls is a beautifully designed rotary indicator switch. Designed specifically for Bekker Hand Controls, the unit neatly replaces the standard hand grip and is fitted easily. As with all of Brian's products, the quality and finish is superb, the operating switch locating neatly under the fingers with a smooth, positive action.

The Adaptaturn is a new steering wheel spinner aimed at providing a secure steering wheel knob without the need for a bracing bar. Bar-mounted knobs have become a virtual

Nissan Motor GB, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Maple Cross, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 2YS, tel: (0923) 899466.

Vauxhall Motability Sales, 66 High Street, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 5BJ, tel: (0582) 861888.

Ford Motor Company Ltd, Motability Administration Centre, PO Box 288, Marlow, Buckinghamshire SL7 1YS, tel: (0628) 895225.

Reselco Engineering Ltd, Kew Bridge Pumping Station, Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 0EF, tel: 081-847 4509.

Brian Page Controls, 5 Eversley Way, Thorpe Industrial Estate, Egham, Surrey TW20 8RG, tel: (0784) 435850.

Adaptaturn Precision Engineering, Port Cottage, Ash Mill, South Molton, Devon EX36 4QF, tel: (0769) 550688.

Continental Motor Campers (REIMO) Ltd, Unit C4 Lympne Industrial Park, Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT21 4LR, tel: (0303) 261062. The Mobility Workshop, Unit 27, Imex Business Park, Hamilton Road, Manchester M13 0PD, tel: 061-248 5047.

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You'll never laugh alone

Multiple Sclerosis can be hilarious. This statement may seem strange to people who are living with the constant pain and indignities of the condition (like myself) but let me explain.

When I had a magnetic resonance imaging scan (MRI for short) at our local private hospital - the only NHS scanner was in London - I sat in the waiting room with Axminster up to my ankles and a copy of a 1952 *Country Life* in my lap. Suddenly my left wrist gave way and I dropped my coffee.

Five minutes later the radiographer came out to find your intrepid authoress grovelling on the floor mopping up Nescafé with alacrity, not to mention half a dozen tissues, my husband's handkerchief and an aged copy of the *Dandy*. Not a very good start.

After I had changed into one of those backless gowns, the ones that fasten with two bits of chewed tape and a bent safety pin, I was fed into what felt like a giant doughnut. A panic button was fastened to my gown: "Just press it if you feel alarmed".

I tried some deep breathing exercises last used during labour, but this sounded like a pervert making an obscene phone call. So I gave up and counted the clicks; the MRI scanner sounds like a time bomb with the unfortunate patient as the TNT filling.

Half an hour later, I was released to hobble off to the changing room (I'd like to change to Jane Fonda please). Have you seen those changing rooms? Eighteen inches square with a wooden seat and a peg. I christened mine Lester Piggott, (small and you nearly jump Becher's Brook when anyone knocks on the door).

The MRI scan confirmed MS and I cried so much I nearly had a damp course installed. However *Nil Desperandum*. Whoever said "Laugh and the world laughs with you, cry and you cry alone" certainly knew what they were talking about.

I don't pretend that having MS is trivial, the pain and tiredness make every day an effort, but finding the absurdity in embarrassing situations has saved what's left of my sanity.

Georgina Millard

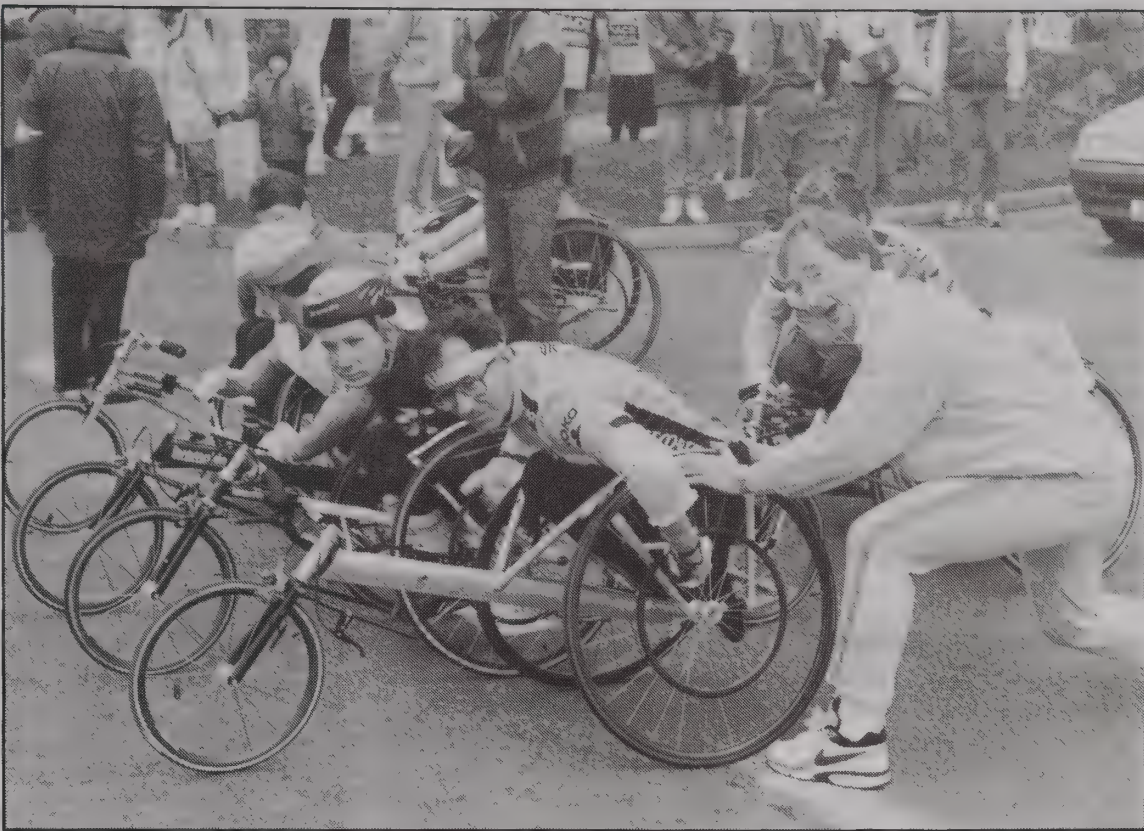
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Win a £10 prize

Can you create-a-caption?

BBC tv's Nick Witchell with members of the falcon wheelchair racing club on the starting blocks for the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People's fun run. What could they all be saying as they limber up? Send your answers please, to *DN*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ by 13 May.



... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ... NEWS QUIZ ...

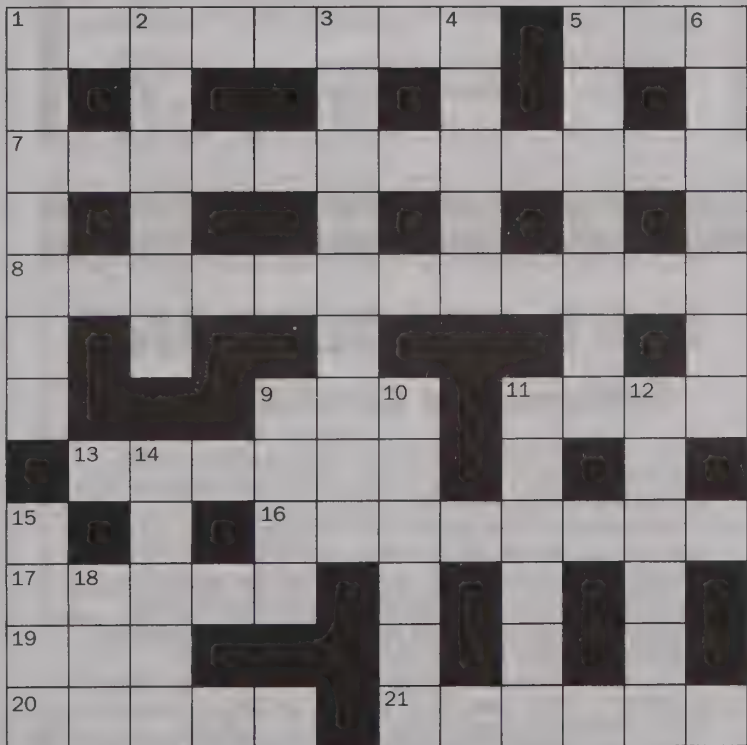
Answers page 35

- Who won the 1993 Grand National?
- Why was an unemployed Welshman fined £1,200?
- Who won the Oscar for best actress?
- How much aid did the United States decide in April to give to Russia?
- Who met representatives of the IRA?
- What proportion of people are better off under the council tax than the poll tax?
- Where did a tank of radioactive waste leak?
- Why was drugs company Wellcome worried?
- The director general of which Italian car company was arrested on corruption charges?
- Where was the most up-to-date tube train in the world introduced?

DN's crossword

Answers page 35

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

- Term which replaced "mental handicap" (8,12)
- Place for lawyers or drinkers (3)
- See 1 across
- Nine side glee (anag)
- Consume (3)
- Slang for injection (4)
- Tell off (6)
- Watery colour (3,5)
- Mediterranean country (5)
- As good as a wink (3)
- Title for 2 down (5)
- Longing (6)

DOWN

- 25 March (4,3)
- King of England (6)
- Instil (9)
- Second Century Greek physician (5)
- Lion, Rail or Steel (7)
- Reverence (7)
- Not difficult (4)
- Mocked (6)
- Sequence (6)
- First batsman (6)
- Avoid (5)
- Extension (4)
- Rocky height (3)

April winner

The £10 prize goes to Kevin McHugh from County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland for: "Sorry, I didn't think you'd notice them missing!"

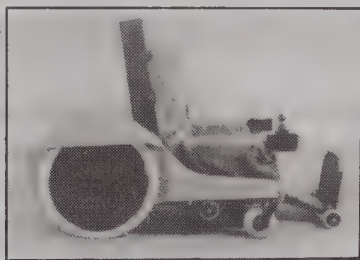
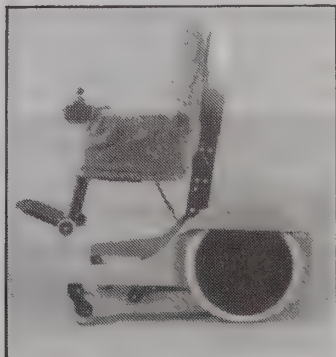
Thanks for all your funny captions last month. If you've never entered why not have a go this month?



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WHAT'S ON

Chair-Aware '93 wheelchair awareness seminar. 20 May and 17 June at Stoke Mandeville. £85. Details from the Chair-Aware secretary, Independent Living Exhibition, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP21 8AL.

Disability Equality Training, a two day course. 20-21 May and 17-18 June at Leeds University. £280. Contact Sheila Speedy, Dept of Continuing Professional Education, Continuing Education Building, Springfield Mount, Leeds LS2 9NG, tel: (0532) 333241.

Journalism for Project Leaders and Researchers, a one day course. 21 May in central London. £95. For details contact the Hamlet Trust, 9 Clifton Road, London W9 1SZ, tel: 071-289 1587.

Leadership and Teamwork in Action, a personal development course for able-bodied and disabled women. 25-28 May in the New Forest. £390. Contact Heather Blake Ventures Training, John Montagu Building, Beaulieu, Hampshire SO42 7ZN, tel: (0590) 612047.

1993 Mobility Roadshow, 11-13 June at the Transport Research Laboratory, Crowthorne, Berkshire. For details tel: 071-276 0800.

INFO

A Guide for Blind and Partially Sighted People (FB19) gives an overview of social security benefits. Large print and audio cassette copies are available from local social security offices or from Freeline Social Security, tel: (0800) 666555.

Disability and Work, a Labour Research Department (LRD) guide, is for trade unionists working for equal opportunities for disabled workers. £2.05 for unions or £10 for others, from LRD, 78 Black-friars Road, London SE1 8HF.

The London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard has information on groups for disabled people. Tel: 071-837 7324.

MOVES

Michael Robert Chapman is now the chairman and **Anne Fragniere** the director of Action for Sick Children. **Roccie Hill** is the new fundraising director at the Shaw Trust. **Kevin Kearns** is the new benefit rights officer (North West) for the RNIB. **John Tomlinson** is now chair of the Further Education Funding Council's committee for students with learning difficulties. **Gill Winfield** is now information officer and **Jeanette Dixon** the magazine editor at ASBAH.

CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS



The Enham Trust 75th Anniversary

CONFERENCE - EXHIBITION - OPEN DAYS
30th June & 1st July 1993

The Enham Trust is staging a series of events this summer to celebrate its 75 years of service to people with disabilities.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE - the two-day conference programme will focus on examples of good practice from European countries under the title -

INTO EUROPE - NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

EXHIBITION - the wide-ranging exhibition will be the central point for all Anniversary activities and provide an ideal platform for representatives of industry and commerce, statutory bodies and the voluntary sector to display their products and services.

OPEN DAYS - on the same two days, 30th June and 1st July, the Trust will be putting all of its services and activities on view.

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- * helping to develop Phab youth, self advocacy work, promoting disability awareness including training courses, equal opportunities training and disability arts.
- * continued liaison with disability groups
- * extend existing information technology courses

Applicants would need to show evidence of management ability and a flair for enabling others. Personal experience of disability is desirable. Merton Phab club is run equally by disabled and able bodied members.

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LWT is an equal opportunities employer and positively welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

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BATRICAR ARIES 3, spare wheel, battery charger and shopping trolley. £1,800. Tel: (0689) 855305.

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LARK ELECTRIC CHAIR, little use since new - excellent condition. £985. Tel: (0689) 853642.

BATRICAR BLUE AVON 1983, spare wheel, storm apron. Excellent condition. see in New Malden. £950. Tel: 081-337 2596.

CARCHAIR ATTENDANT wheelchair system fitted to 1986 Volvo 340 DL 1.7 passenger side. £3,250. Tel: (0909) 721525.

BATRICAR 24V DELUX with hood and charger. Excellent condition. £1,600. Tel: (0258) 455423 (Blandford, evenings).

EVERACTIVE TURBO BOBCAT, suit 5 to 9 years. New April 1992, VGC. Reclines. £2,000 ono. Tel: (0491) 651991 (Oxon).

INTERBILITY SLIDE AWAY ramp to suit Renault Trafic van. £150 ono. Tel: (0449) 673417 (Suffolk).

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ALVEMA 208 PUSHCHAIR, suit age 2 to 8. Very good condition, raincape included. Offer. Tel: (0327) 52505.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR VESSA 2, hardly ever used, regularly serviced, good condition. £500. Tel: (0245) 461650.

Continued on page 33

CONFERENCE

BCAB-93

4th-5th June 1993

The British Computer Association of the Blind will be holding its annual exhibition and seminar at the Hospitality Inn, Cambridge St, Glasgow. This is an ideal opportunity to see the latest hi-tech equipment that enables the visually handicapped access information. There will be demonstrations and opportunities for hands-on use of computer based speech, braille, and print reading systems. Admission is free.

The one day seminar (4th June) focuses on current and future computer based information access opportunities for the visually handicapped, particularly graphical user interfaces. There will be five presentations on this theme. Admission cost £75.

For further information contact Linda Granfield, secretary, 061-275-6282.

FOR SALE

Continued from page 32

MOBILITY 2000 stair climbing wheelchair, good condition, new batteries, charger, work tray, crutch holder, hooks for shopping bags, serviced by manufacturer. Genuine reason for sale. £1,990 ono. Tel: (0705) 617294.

LEVO STAND-UP WHEELCHAIR model LMN443, new battery and controls, condition as new, £1,000 ono. Tel: (060545) 664 (evenings).

RENAULT 19 AND CARCHAIR for front passenger. No need to change chair, electric lift in/out at button push. Prima 3 dr 1.397cc J reg. 3,000 miles. Perfect condition. (Cost £14,300.) £10,000 ono. To see, tel: (0865) 248748.

FORD TRANSIT VAN, K reg auto, PAS, wheelchair lift platform, swivel driver's seat. Hand controls. Side windows, seating, etc. Heated screens, alarmed. 3,250 miles. £15,950. Tel: (0323) 845224.

NIAGARA MASSAGE PADS, hand units. Adjustable massage beds, reclining massage chairs, nearly new, half prices, reconditioned, year warranty, guaranteed first class goods. Part exchanges, repairs, COD, Access, Visa accepted. Tel: (0460) 61157.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS AND SCOOTERS WANTED.

TOP PRICES PAID.
NEARLY NEW AND HARDLY USED
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FREE COLLECTIONS,
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ALL AREAS COVERED.

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ADJUSTABLE BEDS

New and ex-demonstration models
available at reduced prices.
Part exchange. Old beds removed.
Home visits if required. Tel: Concern for
Comfort 081-810 9508.

WHEELCHAIR CARRIERS

We create specialist
vehicles to carry 4 or
5 passengers plus
a wheelchair and its
occupant in style
and comfort at a reasonable price. We can
build to suit your special requirements
and funds. Converted vehicles in stock
from £4,000. For details ring
(0525) 852164 or (0836) 501763 anytime.

POWERCHAIRS

(MOBILITY CONSULTANTS)
Nearly new, hardly used
Electric Wheelchairs,
Scooters, Baticars.
All models wanted and for sale.
The right one to suit your
individual problem.
Free Advice,
Delivery, Collection.
All Areas Covered.
Ring Mr Gibbons
021-357 4965.
All major credit
cards accepted

CYCLE FOR HEALTH & FUN

Best range of special
needs cycling equipment
CALL NOW
for information or
demonstration.

DEALERS NATIONALLY
Neatwork, PO Box Z,
Tel: 089088 3456 Coldstream, Berwickshire,
Fax: 089088 2709 Scotland, TD12 4NW

DO YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY IN USING YOUR
BATHROOM EQUIPMENT? IS IT IN NEED OF A
FACELIFT? We at ALTERNATIVE BATHROOMS
specialise in Fitted Bathrooms and Showers for
people with a different lifestyle. People who
find difficulty in getting into a bath, are unable
to turn taps on and off with ease, or who have
trouble stepping into a shower cubicle. Maybe
a simple facelift is all that is required. If you
need any help, advice, information or a free
estimate please ring 0734 302860.

Small ads in DN reach
over 70,000 people for
just £3 a line. All small
ads must be paid for in
advance. To advertise,
use the form on the right.
Send it and a cheque for
the total to Disability
Now, 12 Park Crescent,
London W1N 4EQ.

LARK TRIUMPH SCOOTER
(unused). Cost £1,700 new. Will accept
£1,000 for quick sale. Tel: (0224)
482319.

ELSWICK ENVOY 15,000 miles,
garaged, good condition, power steering,
infra red. £23,000. Tel: 081-743 5140.

MINICOM COMPACT. £150. If inter-
ested, please phone Mr Reza, 081-954
5952 (tel/minicom), via typetalk: (0345)
515152 or fax: 081-954 7435.

LIGHTWEIGHT WHEELCHAIR
DMA, easily dismantled. Adult size. One
year old. Cost £525. £300 ono. Tel: 081-
952 1610.

POWERED WHEELCHAIR
CRUISER with attendant control. £1,500
ono. Also Betacare Riser Recliner chair,
almost new. £350 ono. Tel: 021-705 0700.

1987 MICRA SGL auto PAS (light)
Becker hand controls. One lady owner
50K immac con. £3,500. Tel: (0772)
485698.

MASSAGE PILLOW, battery operated.
Relieves backache, etc. £19.95. Tel: 061-
792 3029.

**SPORTSTER ELECTRIC TRICY-
CLE** c/w charger. Puncture-proof tyres,
40 miles range. As new £950. Tel: (0865)
65494 (evenings).

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PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

Specialising in:
**LIGHTWEIGHT, RIGID
& FOLDING WHEELCHAIRS**

- Authorised dealer for Quickie,
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- Home demonstration of products
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FOR A BROCHURE OR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Tel/Fax: 0252 547939
156 Alexandra Road, Farnborough,
Hants GU14 6RY

OR OUR NEW OFFICE IN CANTERBURY
Tel/Fax: 0203 122327

A company run by the disabled - for the disabled

CENTRAL & MOBILITY

SPECIALISTS
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Unwanted Stairlifts Purchased. For nearest Branch call:
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**MANUAL LIGHTWEIGHT
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(NEW & SECONDHAND [ALL TYPES])

- BOUGHT AND SOLD
- REPAIRS, SERVICES AND ALTERATIONS
- PARTS SUPPLIED ... FITTING AVAILABLE
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**SPECIAL OFFER -
ONE MONTH ONLY**

- FREE SET OF FRONT CASTOR
BEARINGS WITH EVERY
SERVICE (A SAVING OF £14)
- LOW, LOW PRICES ON ALL
SECONDHAND & EX DEMO CHAIRS
- PLEASE MENTION THIS ADVERT WHEN
CALLING

**ADVICE AND ALTERNATIVE ENQUIRIES WELCOME CONTACT
JAMIE: UNIT E3 & E4, SHIELD BUSINESS CENTRE, SHIELD DRIVE,
BRENTFORD, MIDDLESEX TW8 9EX. TEL: 081-569 8955.**

ELSWICK ENVOY AUTOMATIC. A
reg. 28,000 miles. Driven from
wheelchair (supplied). Remote control
door and ramp, power steering, electronic
ignition and cruise control. Stainless steel
exhaust. £1,750. Tel: 081-898 7185.

PEUGEOT 205 auto 1.6 1991 H reg.
Excellent condition. PAS. 6,500m. Single
lever push/pull hand controls. Sliding
rear door with Kempf wheelchair hoist.
£9,000. Tel: (0225) 833328 (Bath).

TRIUMPH SCOOTER, used only 4
times. Cost £1,950, take £1,500 or near
offer. Tel: 071-582 7344.

SUNRISE MEDICAL SCOOTA Ster-
ling. 7 months old, little used due to ill-
ness. Cost £1,945. Sell for £1,400 ono.
Tel: (0272) 616424 (Bristol).

CARSYSTEM ELECTRIC wheelchair
and hoist for Ford Escort, only used
twice. Cost over £5,000. Will accept
£2,500. Tel: (0304) 840613.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR Positec
PE 46. £295 ono. Tel: (0784) 788508.

ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR. E&J
Homepower chair with central control
and elevating leg rests. Complete with
charger. Used only 5 times. Cost
£2,400. For sale at £990 ono. Tel:
(0602) 232515.

MEYRA ELECTRIC CHAIR, power
steering, 40 mile radius, lights, indicators
and hooter. £1,250. Rainbow Rehab
realvoice communication aid, based on
Epson HX20. £1,500. Reasonable offers.
Tel: (0227) 450032.

ELITE WHISPER electric chair. 3 years
old. £1,300 ono. Tel: 071-314 5517.

CARCHAIR WITH LIFT as new. Pas-
senger side, fitted to 1985 Escort Estate.
£1,995. Will separate. Tel: (0602) 251577.

OXON BERKS

**WHEELCHAIRS
&
SCOOTERS**

WE BUY
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WE ADVISE

*Close enough to
care!*

0488 681653

WILTS HANTS

WHEELCHAIR push or self-propelled.
Folds. £85. Tel: 081-889 8308.

BEC STERLING, 25 miles radius.
Good condition. 4 to 8 mph. £650. Tel:
(0205) 353650.

BEC STERLING POWER SCOOTA,
used very little. As new condition. Cost
over £1,900. Complete with batteries,
charger, etc. £1,200 ono. Tel: 081-393
9077.

LARK TRIUMPH three wheel scooter.
Only used once. £1,400 ono. Tel: (0902)
403927.

ACCOMMODATION

WEST DORSET, detached bungalow,
level access, 3 beds, suit
disabled/retired/family. Cul-de-sac. Tel:
(0308) 862144.

BUNGALOW, COBHAM, SURREY,
designed for wheelchair. £215,000. Tel:
(0932) 867785.

CHALET BUNGALOW with ramps to
purpose-built annexe with own
shower/wc, bed sitting room, kitchen
shared but easily made self-contained.
Main house: Large lounge, diner/kit,
study or bed. Two dbl beds and bath/wc
upstairs. Gas CH and D/Glz through-
out. Conservatory, garage, shed, large
garden. Flat access, local shops and vil-
lage centre, doctor, etc. Fitted carpets,
curtains. Congresbury nr Weston-super-
Mare. £79,500. Tel: (0934) 417463.

GROUND FLOOR FLAT ramped
access: near centre Weston-super-Mare.
Comprises large lounge/diner with ramp
to small fitted kitchen, double bedroom,
bath/wc. Small front garden. Gas CH,
entry phone, all windows security locks.
For sale with all curtains/fitted carpets,
(plus furniture if required at reasonable
price). £35,500. Offers considered. Tel:
(0934) 417463.

*Disability Now is not responsible for
the claims made in the advertise-
ments it prints. Readers are advised
to check claims with the advertisers
before relying on them.*

SERVICES

Adam Price Accessible
Vehicles

If you need a vehicle to carry up to five seated
passengers and a wheelchair but your budget
will not stretch to a new one, contact us.

- * Used accessible vehicles supplied
- * Access conversions to your vehicle
- * Passenger use and access conversions to
used vans
- * Realistic prices
- * Any make supplied

Our comprehensive service includes locating a
suitable vehicle, processing H.M. Customs &
Excise requirements and delivery to your door.
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**Wheelchair accessible minibuses on self-
drive hire. All fitted with lift or ramp, secur-
ing equipment, seatbelts and up to 7 seats.**

Wheelchair travel (RSAF), 1 Johnston Green,
Guildford, Surrey GU2 6XS. Tel: (0483)
233640. Fax: (0483) 237772.

WANTED

QUALITY VEHICLE wanted soon.
Lowered Floor and ramp for wheelchair.
Min hts: internal 54in, window 48in,
access 50in. Option to deal tail lift G reg
converted Seat Terra. Tel: (0484) 532150.

GENTLE COUPLE in their late 70s
want spacious rented accommodation.
Both are disabled and in wheelchairs with
full-time carer living as family. On the

FIND-A-FRIEND

For Find A Friend ads please
send a cheque or postal
order for £3 payable to Dis-
ability Now with your ad.

YOUNG FEMALE, 26, wheelchair
bound due to cp. I have short, dark,
curly hair and blue eyes. I enjoy tv, eat-
ing out, swimming, my three dogs, meet-
ing people and good conversation. I
would like to meet able bodied or slightly
disabled males in Cheshire/Lancs (pref.
car owners). Box No. 539.

JULIA, 31 YEARS OLD. Has cp but
independent. Own flat. Enjoys travel,
meeting people, music, animals and holi-
days. Would like loads of friends, please
write. Box No. 540.

LADY 39 YEARS OLD with degenera-
tive hearing loss (now 20 per cent left)
seeks friendship, guidance and support
from those likewise affected. I work in
training and have many interests, mainly
travel. I am a happy, caring person who
is losing her way. Can anyone help me to
cope. Prefer North of England, but all
letters will be answered. Box No. 541.

*To reply to a Find-A-Friend indicate the Box
Number and mark the envelope Private and
Confidential. If you do not it will be opened.
Send to DN, address on page 2.*

HANDIDATE
Dating Agency

**For people with disabilities.
Be assertive and join Handidate.**

The Wellington Centre
52 Chevallier Street
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB.
Telephone: (0473) 226950

**Anybody Any Age Able-bodied or
Disabled.** Choose Your Own Ideal
Relationship. **Mutual Essential Links**,
1 Weir Street, Northwich, Cheshire
CW9 5HL. Tel. 0606 49093 (24hrs).

friends in need

DISABLED PARTNERS
**Being disabled need not be a
handicap. Are you lonely, bored
and longing to make new friends?**
WE CAN HELP - CALL US
We specialise in establishing new
friends and relationships for
all able bodied and disabled
people nationwide.
WE CAN HELP - CALL US NOW
081 676 0396

**DATES FOR THE DISABLED
- A BETTER LIFE -**
36 Park Grove, Edgware,
Middx. HA8 7SJ
Tel. 081-958 9657

Classified lineage advertisements

Please use this form if you are a private individual and want to place a classified advertisement. Write clearly in block capitals. Remember to
allow a space for each comma or full stop and a space between words. Use each space in the line even if you have to split words at the end.

(Part of the first line will be in bold capitals)

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Send this coupon with your name and address, daytime telephone number and a cheque for the total made payable to Disability Now, to:
12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

DN reserves the right to edit advertisements if necessary at no additional cost. Completion of this form does not guarantee inclusion in a particular issue. Sorry no refunds. DN is a non-profit making newspaper.

MERTON ASSOCIATION FOR DISABLED PEOPLE requires an ADMINISTRATIVE WORKER/SECRETARY (PART-TIME)
Salary - £3,000 pa (9 hours per week) to work from its office in Vestry Hall, London Road, Mitcham.
The successful applicant will be a self-motivated, good communicator, with proven organisational and secretarial skills. If you have some experience of working with people with disabilities, and you feel you could bring a positive, creative and professional approach to this important post, contact Eileen Roberts, 8 Rosehill Gardens, Sutton, Surrey SM1 3JZ (or telephone 081 644 5793) for an application form.
The Association, one of Merton's leading voluntary organisations, is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from people with disabilities.
Closing date for completed applications: 21st May 1993.

GREENWICH CITIZEN ADVOCACY
The aim of the Project is to recruit and support advocates who would represent the interests of individual people with a Learning Disability.

Co-ordinator
£16,776 - £17,812

Previous experience of working with people with a Learning Disability and/or with Volunteers will be an advantage. You should be able to demonstrate a positive commitment towards improving the quality of life for people with a Learning Disability. Good communication and negotiation skills and the ability to work on your own initiative are also required. This post will include some unsocial working hours.

INTERVIEWS FOR THIS POST TO BE HELD ON 7TH JUNE 1993.

Part-time Administrative Assistant
£11,961 - £13,224 pro rata to 17 1/2 hours

You will need good general office and organisation skills including accurate typing skills and the ability to deal sensitively and confidentially with calls from advocates and their partners.

INTERVIEWS FOR THIS POST TO BE HELD ON 8TH JUNE 1993.


Experience of Advocacy work would be an advantage for either post.

Written requests only for application forms to: Greenwich Citizen Advocacy, St Mary's Church, Greenlaw Street, London SE18 5AR. Please enclose a large S.A.E.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 21st May 1993.

Working towards Equal Opportunities

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF



Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and welcomes applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men to help build a representative workforce.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

DISABILITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS UNITS

The London Borough of Waltham Forest is determined to end discrimination, and is committed to fighting ableism wherever it appears, especially in its own practices. We believe that change will only come about when those who experience the discrimination are fully involved in directing that change.

To this end, we have created a Disability Equality Committee and a Central Disability Unit and have recruited specialist Disability officers in departments. We now have the following vacancies:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH WORKER Ref: H2012 / DN

DISABILITY UNIT
£21,345 - £23,139 p.a.inc.

We are seeking a disabled person to research and develop policies about the concerns and aspirations of disabled people as users of the Council's services. You will need a full understanding of the issues faced by disabled people from all sections of the Disability Community, be able to outline these elect Members and Officers and suggest suitable ways in which they can be addressed.

Good communication and report writing skills are essential, as well as an ability to liaise with the senior Council Officers, Members, community groups and individual disabled people.

SENIOR TRAINING OFFICER (DISABILITY)

DISABILITY UNIT Ref: H2013 / DN
18 hours - £9,414 - £10,109 p.a.inc.

We are seeking a disabled person to devise and implement training strategies for disabled and non disabled staff. You will have considerable experience as a trainer including on equal opportunities and disability equality issues in a multi-cultural community. You will be able to organise and prioritise your work and have an understanding of the concerns of black and ethnic minority disabled people, disabled women and disabled lesbians and gay men, together with practical experience of fighting discrimination. Experience of training disabled people and being a Registered Disability Equality Trainer is desirable.

TAPE & BRAILLE TECHNICIAN Ref: H2014 / DN

PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT
£15,213 - £16,170 p.a.inc.

We are seeking a disabled person to assist the Transcription Services Manager in the production of tape, braille and large print. You will have experience in a paid or unpaid capacity of working with blind and partially sighted people and knowledge of their access requirements. You will have a commitment to equal opportunities and have experience of new technology and recording equipment. You will have working knowledge of braille, experience in its production and that of large print and administrative skills. This post is available for Job Share.

Job details are available on tape, braille, large print and on computer disk upon request.

Closing date: 14th June 1993.

Minicom users may telephone 081 527 5544 ext 4729 between 9.30am and 5pm.

For an application form and further details apply to Admin Officer (Recruitment), Chief Executive's Department, Room 223, Town Hall, Forest Road, London E17 4JF. (Tel: 081 531 1436 - 24 hour answering service).

An Equal Opportunities Employer

HOLIDAYS

NORTH DEVON, self-catering cottages sleeping 4-6 (2 specially designed for wheelchairs) fully equipped and heated - linen provided. Peaceful country setting for touring Exmoor, Dartmoor and Devon Coast. Brochure from South Coombe Farm, Witheridge, Tiverton, Devon EX16 8QL, tel: (0884) 860302.

PENROSE BURDEN, CORNWALL
Fully adapted holiday cottages for wheelchair users and their families. Superb rural area with outstanding views, dogs welcome. 1992 Holiday Care award winners. Open all year. Colour brochure, please write or ring R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St. Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 4LZ. Tel: (0208) 850277 or 850617.

"SOUTHDOWN"
A Holiday Home for the Disabled.
1 St Mary's Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.
Tel: (0255) 672790.
Offering full board and an awareness of the holiday needs of our less mobile guests and their carers.
RING OR WRITE FOR OUR BROCHURE
(Administered by the Southend Holiday Home for the Disabled Trust - a registered charity.)

The Access Holiday Guide '93 Edition
Enlarged & detailing many additional "Wheelchair Friendly Holiday Venues".
Excellent value at £3.25 inc p&p from **Access Holiday Guide, 7 Roundberry Drive, Salcombe, Devon, TQ8 8LY.**

Kings Sailing for the disabled. Sailing cruises for disabled and/or able bodied people. With only four guests to care for the skipper and crew can provide that most essential personal touch. Sit back and enjoy or become totally involved, the choice is yours. Most competitively priced. Details: Tom or Anne King (0963) 34767. Or write to 5 Rowan Close Wincanton, Somerset BA9 9SG.

SUNNY TENERIFE
Fully Accessible Mar y Sol
"Brilliant" says BBC TV
Holiday Apartments
Brochure: Lynne James Ltd, 7 Overpool Road, Ellesmere Port L66 1JW. (Tel: 051-339 5316)

YORKSHIRE DALES
Self-catering cottage adapted for wheelchair visitors. Newly converted barn on high moorland, between Pateley Bridge and Grassington. Beautiful views. Sleeps up to 5. Comfortable, well-equipped. Children, dogs welcome.
Phone: (0423) 711747.

HIGHLAND HOLIDAYS
RED CROSS HOUSE, INVERNESS
offers Respite/Holiday breaks for adults with disabilities.
Comfortable single bedrooms.
Friendly staff providing 24 hour care.
Accessible transport to explore tourist trails and enjoy many leisure and recreational facilities.
For further information contact:
Red Cross House, Mackintosh Road, Raigmore, Inverness, IV2 3TX.
Tel. No. (0463) 234939.

Spain - Fully adapted ground floor holiday apartments in the Mojacar area of south east Spain. 2 bedrooms, shared pool, close to beach and town. Sunny, relaxing, pleasant holiday area. Please write or phone: RAYMAR, Unit 1, Fairview Estate, Reading Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1HE, tel: 0491 578446.

GLEBE FARM HOLIDAYS
SELF CATERING COTTAGES FOR THE DISABLED
Glebe Farm, Charles Brayford
Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT
Telephone: 0598 710241
Open all year. Wheelchair accessible.
Equipment available.
Tourist Board 4 keys and commended.
Please contact: Valerie Boddington

St. Leonards, Sussex. 7 berth caravan adapted for disabled people on Haven Site. For colour brochure. Tel: Shepway MS (0303) 242009.

MAR Y SOL, Los Cristianos, Tenerife.
Wheelchair accessible apartments and studios in luxury complex. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, health treatments. Video available. Cheap flights. Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Middx TW19 5NX, tel: (0753) 685718.

Costa Blanca - Spain
Wheelchair accessible twin bedded accommodation. Swimming pool, adapted minibus, plus various trips and outings included. For full details send for a free colour brochure to: Daystar Holidays Ltd, 26 Scotts Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5RG or telephone (0892) 525133.

Llandeilo, West Wales. 3 comfortable well equipped cottages specially for disabled people and their families. Overlooked by 12th century castle and over-run by deer. Each cottage sleeps 4. Central heating, CTV, laundry, fitness room. Large orchard and a very warm welcome. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (0558) 823059 for brochure.

Try a **WINGED FELLOWSHIP** Holiday in Britain or Overseas. Great fun and full care provided. Write for free colour brochure. Winged Fellowship, Angel House, 20/32 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD, tel: 071-833 2594.

BRITTANY COTTAGE to let.
Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6.
Details C Hodgson. Tel: (0924) 454300.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA. HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME! FOR DISABLED TRAVELLERS.
Spacious luxury adapted bungalow. Free golf/tennis/swimming club. 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (one adapted). Cable tv. Telephone. 15 minutes Airport. 20 minutes Disney etc. DON'T MISS IT! Contact paraplegic owner, Sue Fisher, 061-792 3029, 5 Park Lane, Broughton Park, Salford M7 0LB. Book early to avoid disappointment.

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY
FOR PEOPLE WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Quality Assurance Adviser
Salary in the region of £23,000

To join a team working to promote and assure Quality throughout The Spastics Society. Work will include training and supporting staff and service users in setting standards, developing and advising on Quality systems, monitoring aspects of the Society's activities, leading teams of seconded staff to evaluate the Quality of Society services and implementing and operating the Complaints Resolution Procedure.

Travel throughout England and Wales and staying away from home overnight will be necessary. Base location is negotiable.

Interviews to be in London on 20th May 1993.

Administrative Secretary (full time or job share)
Salary range from £10,422 to £11,652 plus Inner London Weighting

To join the small Quality Assurance Secretariat. Good word-processing and other secretarial skills are essential. You would work as part of a small enthusiastic team providing support services to Quality Assurance, Research and Training staff.

Closing date for both posts 13th May 1993.

For an application form contact the Quality Assurance Division, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, tel: 071-636 5020 ext 214.

We welcome applications from people with disabilities.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUALITY



WALTHAM FOREST SOCIAL SERVICES
EQUALITIES UNIT: EQUALITY OFFICERS (2)
£18,828 - £20,217 pa inc REF:P1996/DD

The Children Act and the NHS and Community Care Act bring with them opportunities and challenges for Equal Opportunities. Waltham Forest is reassessing its services and the relevance and access to services for people who face discrimination.

We are looking for two Equalities Officers to assist us in this task. The posts will be based in the new Equalities Unit in Social Services and will work closely with service managers advising on equalities issues and monitoring services. Experience of equalities work and monitoring of services is essential as is the ability to work in partnership with service managers to bring about change. Liaison and consultation skills and a knowledge and understanding of relevant legislation is required.


Applicants from people with disabilities will be particularly welcome. *People from black and ethnic minorities are under-represented at this level, thus we particularly wish to encourage applications from people in these groups. (Section 38(i)(b) of the Race Relations Act applies.)*

Closing date: 1st June 1993

For an application form/further details contact:
The Personnel Unit, Social Services Department, Municipal Offices, High Road, London E10 5QJ
Tel: 081-539 3089 (24 hour answering service)

These posts are available for job share except where indicated. Details available on tape on request.

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF



Waltham Forest serves a multi-racial community and welcomes applications from women, black and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lesbians and gay men to help build a representative workforce.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

GLASGOW CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH
FEMALE CO-ORDINATOR (3 YEAR APPOINTMENT)
SALARY UP TO £24,245 PER ANNUM

The Glasgow Centre for Women's Health is an exciting new development funded initially for three years by Greater Glasgow Health Board, Strathclyde Regional Council and Glasgow District Council.

Based at a City Centre location, we are looking for a woman to work with our multi-agency Management Committee and small support team to establish a health promotion service which responds to the unmet and often unrecognised needs of all women. You shall also develop a resource centre for self help groups and organise education and training courses.

You must possess effective communication skills, management experience and a proven ability to work with women in stressful situations. An understanding of women's health issues and a belief in the empowerment of women are essential.

This post is advertised in accordance with Section 7(2)E of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and 1986 and is suitable for job-share.

Information Packs and informal enquiries available from Sue Laughlin, Women's Health Policy Co-ordinator, Department of Public Health, Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital, Rottenrow, Glasgow, G4 (041 552 3400 ext 218).

Closing date: 21 May 1993.

COMMUNITY LINKS requires

PLAYWORKERS, GROUP WORKERS, YOUTH WORKERS, CAMP WORKERS, HOUSING ADVICE WORKER

to join our pool of sessional staff. Work available after school, evenings, weekends and during each school holiday period. Links is committed to delivering high-quality, community-based services, with a philosophy of user-participation and Equal Opportunities. Good rates of pay and in-service training programme.

Application forms from:

Kevin Jenkins, Canning Town Public Hall, 105 Barking Road, London E16 4HQ.

Community Links is Working Towards Being an Equal Opportunities Employer



action for blind people
Information Officer

£17,850 - £19,755 (inclusive of Head Office Allowance) + Benefits.

Action for Blind People is committed to the delivery of an expanding range of high quality services for blind and visually impaired people.

A major investment has been made to increase and improve the information and advice available to visually impaired people and to professional staff, families, carers and others working with and for them.

An Information Centre at Verney Road, a Mobile Sight Information Service and a local information project in partnership with a Social Services Department have been established.

Supported by funding from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, we are now establishing an additional outreach service to provide information support to GDBA staff at their Head Office and in their Regional Centres, to their service users and other visually impaired people.

We are looking for a library/information professional with appropriate experience preferably in a related field, to join our existing team and undertake this new work. The post will be based in the Information Centre at Verney Road. A working knowledge of computers is essential.

If you would like an information pack contact Sheila Ditchfield, Information and Advice Services Manager, 14-16 Verney Road, London SE16 3DZ. Please specify if you require information in large print, braille or tape.

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 19th May.

Interviews will be held on: 27th/28th May

Applications are welcome from all regardless of age, sex, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or disability, except so far as a person with a visual impairment will be considered to have an additional qualification for the post. We regret our current premises have limited access for people with restricted mobility.



OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

Equal Opportunities Officer (Access)

(Ref. No. 1) P016/18 £20,238 - £23,169 per annum

Oxford City Council is committed to making equality of opportunity a reality for people with disabilities. This is a challenging job which requires a person who is committed to disability and equality issues.

Based in the Equal Opportunities Unit of the Chief Executive's Department and responsible to the Principal Equal Opportunities Officer.

The person appointed will need to have:

- Experience of working with or for organisations and agencies working in the interest of people with disabilities.
- A good working knowledge of relevant legislation, including, if possible, knowledge of technical details concerning access issues.
- A clear understanding of the needs of people with disabilities, including people with mental health difficulties both in terms of employment and service delivery.
- Finally, although not essential, a knowledge of the role and functions of Local Government would be useful.

We welcome job share applicants for this post and applications from people with disabilities are particularly welcome.

For an informal discussion about the post please telephone the Principal Equal Opportunities Officer, Erica Davis on Oxford 252287, or call for written details on the number below.

Closing date - 19th May 1993

Application forms and further particulars are available from the Personnel Officer, 28-31 St Ebbe's Street, Oxford OX1 1EF. Telephone 0865 252465. Your call will be received by an answerphone service.



During normal office hours (for the hearing impaired only) our Minicom number is 0865 252032.

ALL APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT BY 4.30PM ON THE CLOSING DATE.

We expect all our employees to have an understanding of and a commitment to our equal opportunities policies.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

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please contact the Advertisement

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Press Ltd,

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Tel: 071-252 1362.

Fax: 071-237 8019.

Deadlines for June issue: booking by 14 May, camera ready art-work/copy by 18 May.

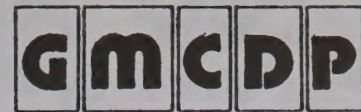
CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Learning
5. Bar 7. Difficulties
8. Diesel engine 9. Eat
11. Shot 13. Berate
16. Sea green 17. Italy
19. Nod 20. Great

DOWN: 1. Lady day
2. Alfred 3. Inculcate
4. Galen 5. British
6. Respect 9. Easy
10. Teased 11. Series
12. Opener 14. Evade
15. Wing 18. Tor

NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. No one, the race was declared void 2. For throwing litter out of a car window 3. Emma Thompson 4. £1 billion
5. Gordon Wilson, whose daughter was killed by the organisation 6. Two thirds, according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies 7. Siberia
8. A medical trial suggested their anti-Aids drug AZT was not effective 9. Fiat
10. London's central line



The Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People is launching a major new initiative, **The Young Disabled Peoples' Advice and Resource Centre**. We are looking for four disabled people to develop this exciting three year project.

Co-ordinator: Scale S01. £15,669 p.a. (35 hours per week):-

You will be responsible for the overall development and co-ordination of the project, including day to day management of staff.

Administrative Worker: Scale 3. £9,930 p.a. (35 hrs per week):-

You will be responsible for the general administration and day to day finances of the project.

Interviews for the above posts will be held in the week beginning 24th May.

Information/Advice Worker: Scale 6. £14,106 p.a. (35 hrs per week):-

You will be responsible for providing information and advice to young disabled people, parents etc, publicising the work of the project and organising training courses.

Youth Worker: £8.00 per hour (initially 6 hours per week):-

You will be responsible for planning and delivering sessions with young disabled people, and working in conjunction with parents, other youth agencies etc to promote integration into mainstream society.

Interviews for the above posts will be held in the week beginning 31st May.

Closing date for all applications: **FRIDAY 14TH MAY.**

Please send for further information/application form, stating if braille, tape or large print is required to: **GMCDP, Unit 33, Cariocca Enterprises, Ardwick, Manchester M12 4AH.**

GMCDP particularly welcomes applications from black people due to under representation in this organisation.

ONLY DISABLED PEOPLE NEED APPLY.

THE MARKFIELD PROJECT

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR

Salary scale 6 £15,213 pro rata for 17.5 hour week

The Markfield Project is a unique venture in the field of integration for children and young people with disabilities.

The Project offers a broad based exciting, stimulating and innovative service to families in North East London.

We are looking for an enthusiastic, creative person to co-ordinate our Volunteer Programme.

You must have:

At least two years experience of working with volunteers, either in a paid or unpaid capacity.
Good communication skills.
Experience of how to set up and deliver training.
Commitment to the implementation of Equal Opportunities.

WE WISH TO RECRUIT A DISABLED PERSON TO THIS POST.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard Howard, The Markfield Project, Markfield Road, London N15 4RB.
Telephone 081-800 4134 (24hr answer phone),
081-802 2111 (minicom).

Closing Date: 1st June 1993
Interview Date: 10th June 1993

Service Manager (Equalities)

Salary P03 £23,733 - £25,437pa

Do you have a vision for Equalities in the year 2000 and beyond?

If so, we would like to hear from you. We are looking for an enthusiastic professional to head up our Equalities Unit and play a key role in raising the profile of equalities in Nottingham.

To be considered, you must have had experience in the equalities field formulating and promoting positive action measures at a strategic level, and be able to demonstrate an ability to forge good relationships with a diverse range of community groups.

It is essential that you have had several years' experience of working in or with local

government and possess a thorough knowledge of good policies, practices and strategies relating to equality issues in employment and services.

Applications are particularly welcome from women, Asians, Afro Caribbeans, and people with disabilities as they are currently under represented amongst our employees.

Application forms and further details available from the Personnel Manager, Chief Executive's Department, The Guildhall, Nottingham NG1 4BT. Tel: (0602) 350700. Answerphone service in operation after office hours. **Please quote ref: CX/0376** on all correspondence and enquiries. **Closing date: 19th May 1993.**



An Equal Opportunity Employer



City of

NOTTINGHAM



Follow the leader: It's neck and neck as the men's 1993 wheelchair marathon sets off from Blackheath, watched by a huge crowd

GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPH

Georges shatters marathon record

Tim Russell reports

Belgian Georges Vandammo shattered the course record for the NutraSweet/BSAD London Wheelchair Marathon last

man came second, crossing the line in 1:46:15. Another Briton, David Holding, took third prize. Sweden's Hakan Ericksen came fourth.

It was Vandammo's first-ever London race and he was

of my preparation. I spent many hours climbing hills and made sure I was used to the windy conditions we faced today."

Ivan Newman was full of praise for his Belgian rival after the race. "His time was just phenomenal and it would have taken a special performance to have beaten him today."

"I am, however, a little disappointed that I did not catch him, because I was going well and thought I was in with a good chance of victory. Unfortunately I lost him on the downhill stretch of the course and was never able to make up the lost ground."

Rose Hill, from Milton Keynes, wore the broadest grin of the day. She won the women's race with a superb time of 2:03:05.

The Paralympic silver medalist finished more than six minutes ahead of pre-race favourite Lily Anggreny, a mature student from Germany.

Last year's winner Tanni

Grey could not find her finest form and struggled home a distant, disconsolate third.

went right today "

Lily Anggreny was unimpressed with the course and



Lily Anggreny, from Germany, powers past Tanni Grey

month.

He finished in an amazing time of 1:44:10, slicing more than seven minutes off Daniel Wesley's 1992 record.

British veteran Ivan New-

delighted to have won.

"I'm very pleased because I trained so hard for this. It was difficult because I was out on my own for most of the race. I believe I was successful because



Lord Snowdon congratulates the winners and runners-up

"I think it's about time I won," said Rose, after receiving her trophy from Lord Snowdon, whose Snowdon Award Scheme was the nominated charity of the marathon.

"I've taken part in the race four times now and always seemed to have come home second. Fortunately everything

said she had never come across such tough conditions before.

"It was too bumpy and windy for me, but I loved the crowd and was determined to keep at them even though I



Winner Georges Vandammo

wasn't enjoying myself. The two winners received £1,000 each and the runner-up £500.

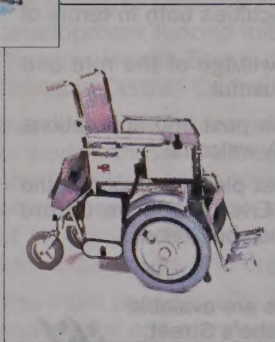
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GROWTH POINT

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To find out more, please contact the membership secretary, (DN), Horticultural Therapy, Goulds Ground, Vallis Way, Frome, Somerset BA11 3DW, tel: (0373) 464782.